サイボーグ CYBORG 009

10

Shotaro Ishinomori

CHAPTER 35
UNDERGROUND EMPIRE "HADES"

*Angol Tom and the Khumer people brought Southeast Asian culture to Cambodia before they disappeared in 1432. It's rumored that a gigantic underground tunnel appeared and swallowed the people up. Supposedly, the Khumers make up the population of the underground empire.

*2,000 Vietnamese were trapped and encircled by the French army in July of 1953. With nowhere to run, the Vietnamese escaped, most likely using an underground tunnel.

*Lord Wilkins' "Time and Space Mystery" further chronicles the existence of many underground tunnels.

*Nicholas Constantine (1874-1947), an artist from the Soviet Union traveled to Tibet on a sightseeing and sketching trip. In his report to Lhasa, capital of Tibet, Constantine told of an underground kingdom named "Agalta".

*Doctor M. Drill, an American researcher of Ancient civilizations constructed yet another 'structure theory' around the year 1930. He discovered rocks about 480 kilometers in thickness that contained large sashes of lava. The sashes concealed many interconnecting caves underneath, forming an almost 'sponge-shaped' zone about 240 kilometers thick with an underground waterway. He theorized that the waterway runs all the way through the Earth, connecting to even larger caves throughout the core. Beneath that exists a high concentration of neutrons, forming heavy metals that outweigh anything on the Earth's surface. All of the above rests just 160 kilometers above the Earth's core.

*1920's "Journey to the Center of the Earth" by Michelle Gardner detailed many underground caves.

Some claim that the idea of an 'Underground Empire' is a ridiculous notion. The following evidence shows that underground worlds may not be so absurd after all.

Discourse of large tunnels and underground caves.

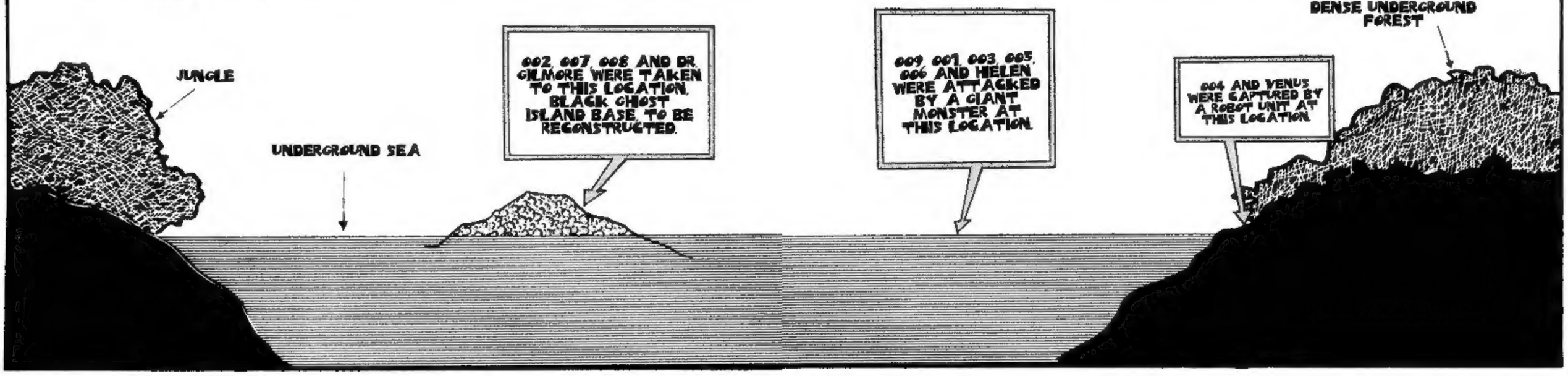
This particular world, Hades, rests 30 kilometers below the surface of the Earth. The capital in the core is a 3470 kilometer section wide surrounded by tons of molten iron fluid. The Earth has a radius of 6400 kilometers from center to surface, and there are small cracks around the globe that offer peeks into this underground world.

*A cave in the Northeastern Central mountainous section of South Africa reveals an underground river flowing through it.

*Robert Van Der Verde, a North American, discovered an enormous underground tunnel at the base of the Yucatan Peninsula, which rests between the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico with a length of 240 kilometers. The locals have never entered and no one knows where the tunnel leads.

*D.G. Lum and a companion wrote of their search for a lost city deep in the mountains near the Guatemalan border. They found yet another large underground tunnel.

*100,000 Mayans suddenly and mysteriously disappeared in Mexico many years ago. It is suspected that they may have ventured into one of the underground tunnels nearby where they were cultivating crops.


JUNGLE
UNDERGROUND SEA
002, 007, 008 AND DR. GILMORE WERE TAKEN TO THIS LOCATION. BLACK GHOST ISLAND BASE TO BE REGONSTRUCTED.
009, 001, 003, 005, 006 AND HELEN WERE ATTACKED BY A GIANT MONSTER AT THIS LOCATION.
004 AND VENUS WERE CAPTURED BY A ROBOT UNIT AT THIS LOCATION.
DENSE UNDERGROUND FOREST

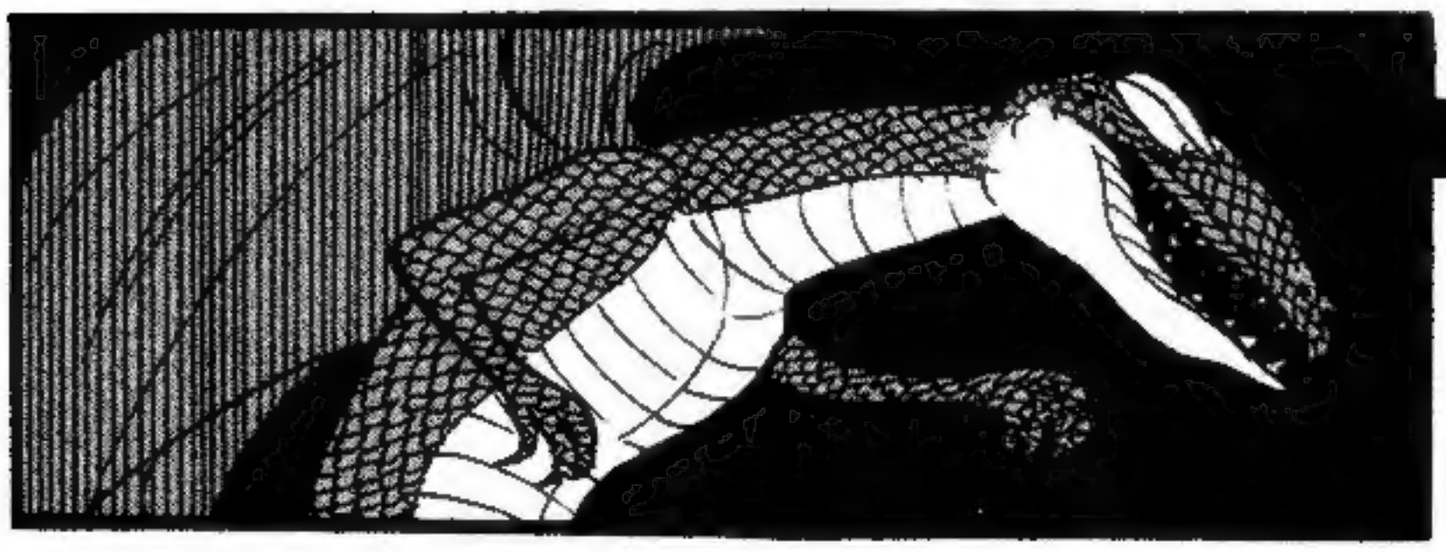
UNDERGROUND EMPIRE "HADES" SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

Zartan

Zartan ruled the land with his magnificent powers before Black Ghost's arrival. Ever since, he's lied in wait, plotting his return to to power.

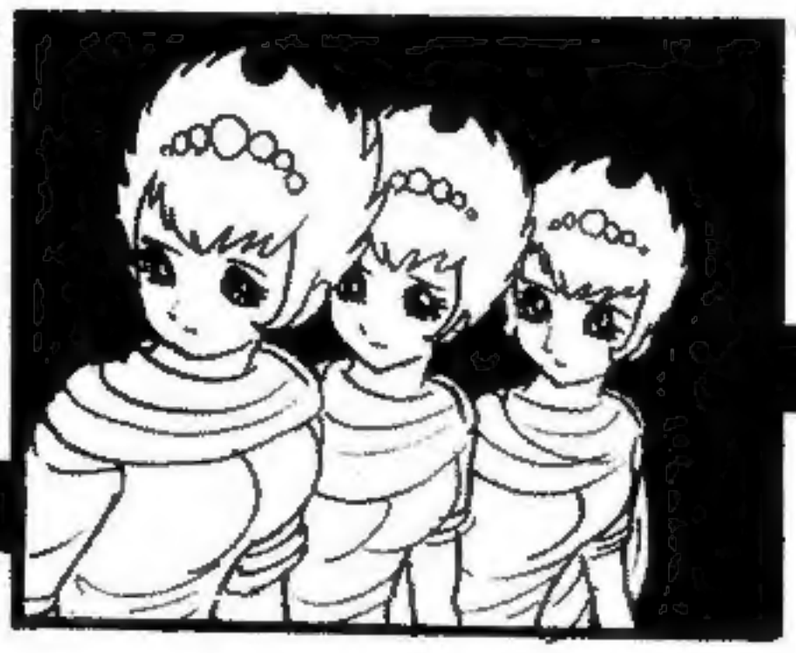
Emperor (Black Ghost)

The current ruler of "Hades". In actuality, Black Ghost is the CEO of the Merchants of Death, a large arms manufacturer and dealer, on the surface world.



Poor Workers

Although similar to most human surface dwellers, these beings were genetically engineered by Zartan to bear many young at once in order to increase the food supply.



The Emperor's Subordinates

Driven solely by money, power and greed, these lackeys have pledged their allegiance to Black Ghost.

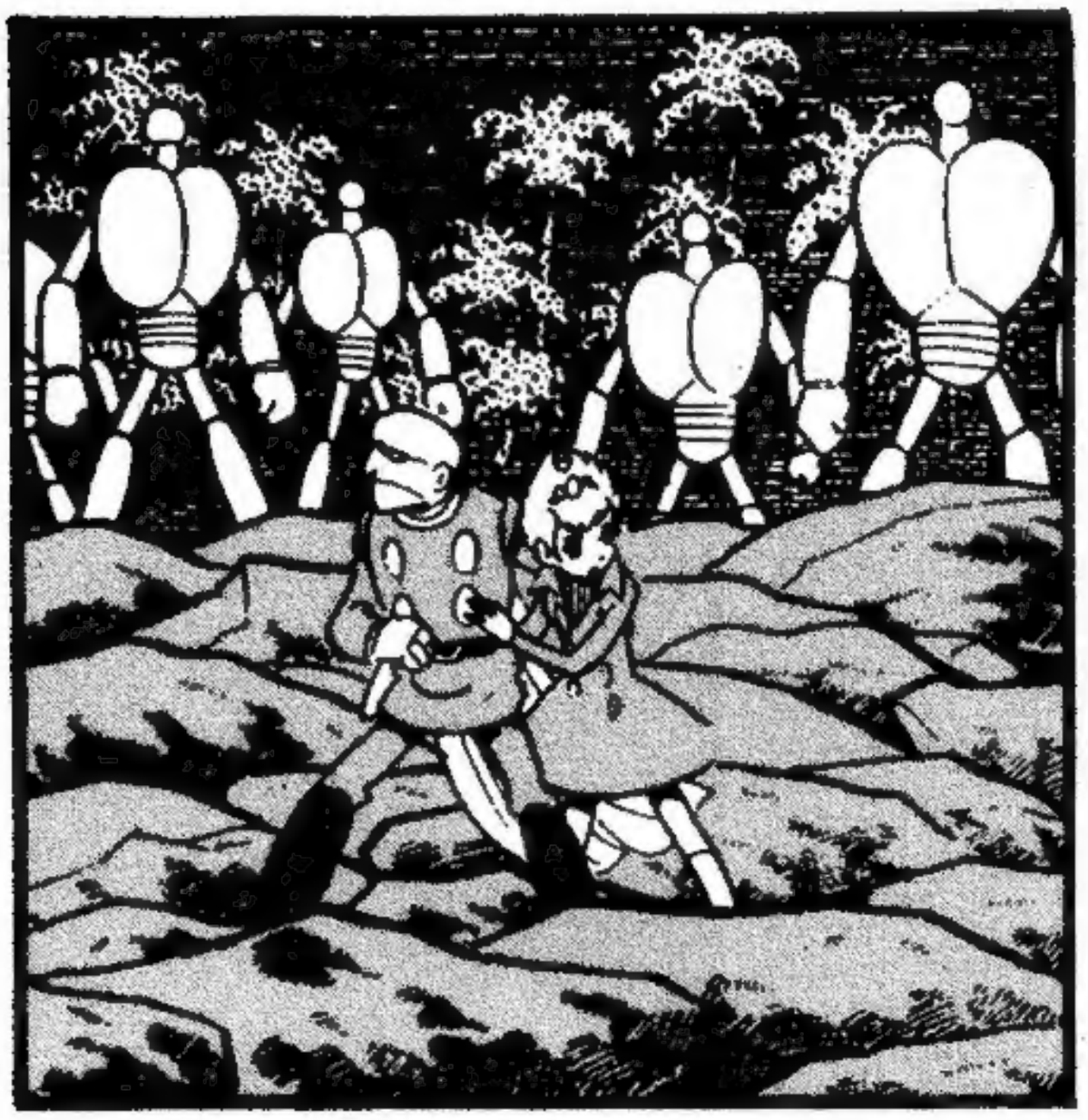
Rutal Primitives

Although their physical strength is nearly unsurpassed, these savage beast men have never evolved due to lifetimes spent in the dark underworld.

Animals who have appeared thus far.

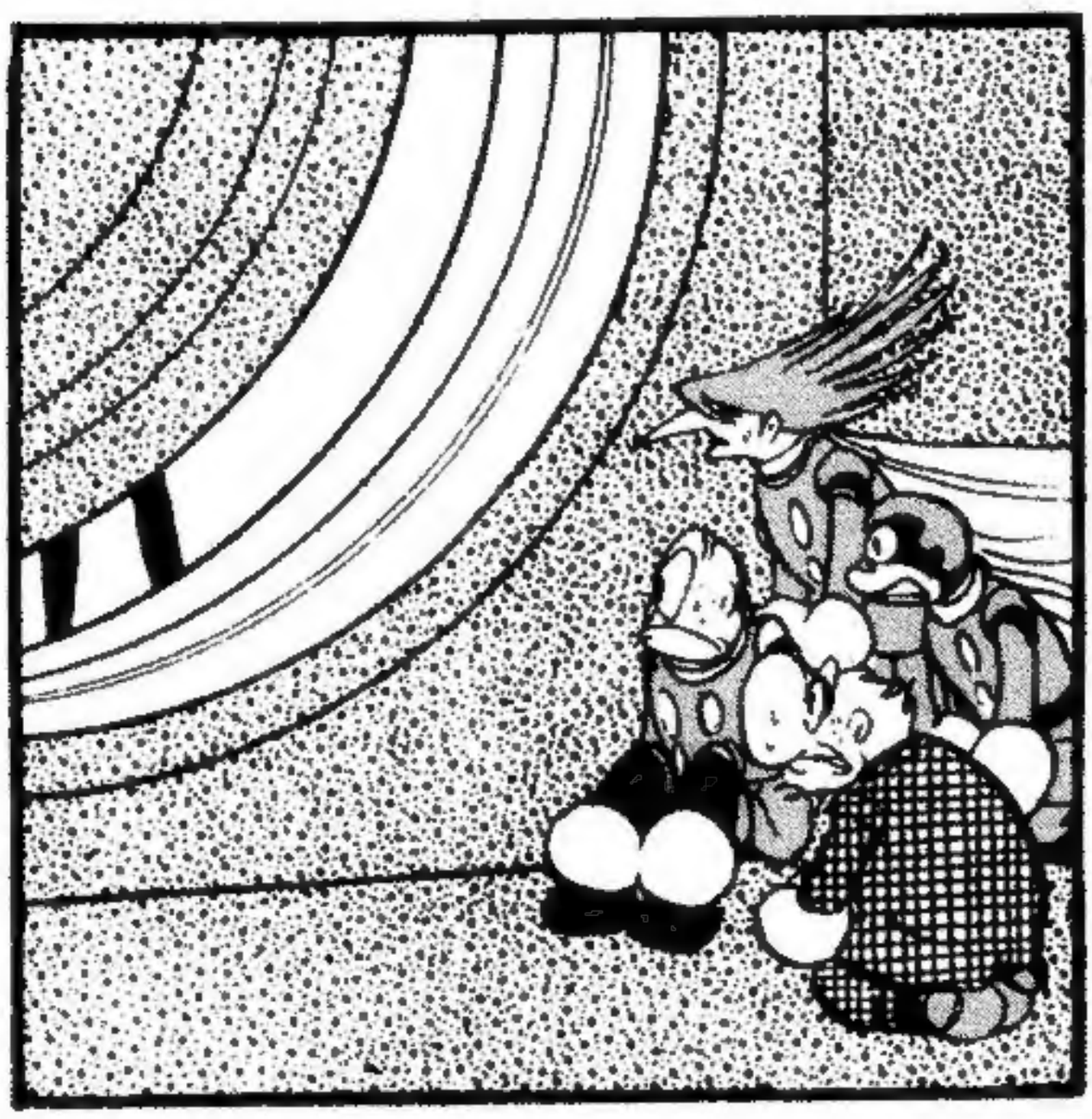
1. Pteranodon
2. Ulus (Ultrasaurus) (to the right of 1 & 2) Named after the ultrasonic waves they emit when they make noise.
3. Eyops (the horse's ancestor)
4. Half (this amphibian has proven to be friendly to humans)
5. Leon (A shape changer)
6. Mutant Mole
7. Insignificant other

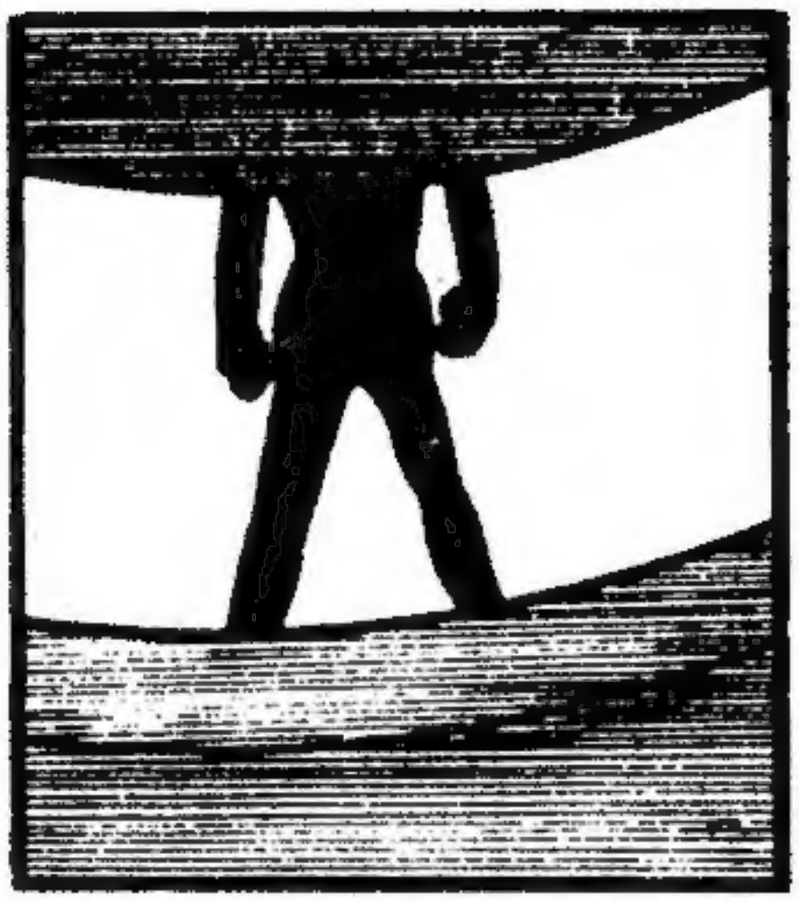
A huge monster first appeared in international waters in the summer of 19??, sinking a boat, blowing up an aircraft and toppling a city into the surface of the Earth. Soon, Black Ghost discovered that the creature was actually from "Hades", a vast Underground Empire. Black Ghost found that it was much easier to conquer and rule "Hades" and from there began to hatch his plans to take over the Earth itself. First, Black Ghost unleashed the underground creature and it's ultrasonic powers on other parts of the surface world, creating chaos and confusion.

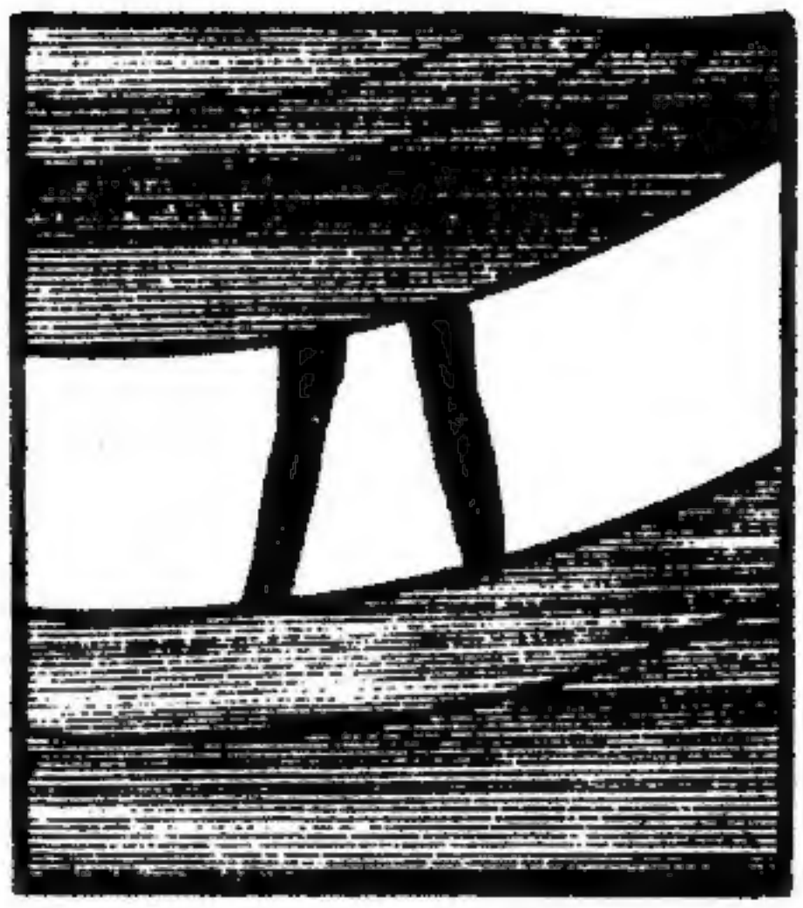


Then, the evil organization sold the world an anti-ultrasonic wave device that could combat the monster THEY unleashed for an absurd price to the countries of the world.
Yet, the machine was a terrible trick. When used, it would release other ultrasonic waves and drive those around it insane. Black Ghost's weapon was clearly a double edged sword. Luckily, Cyborg 009 and his gang arrived!
Doctor Gilmore believed Black Ghost manipulated the ultrasonic wave monster and called the zero zero numbered cyborgs together.
Ironically, Black Ghost was able to sell anti-ultrasonic weaponry to the rest of the world for absurd prices because the threat of the creature was too great.

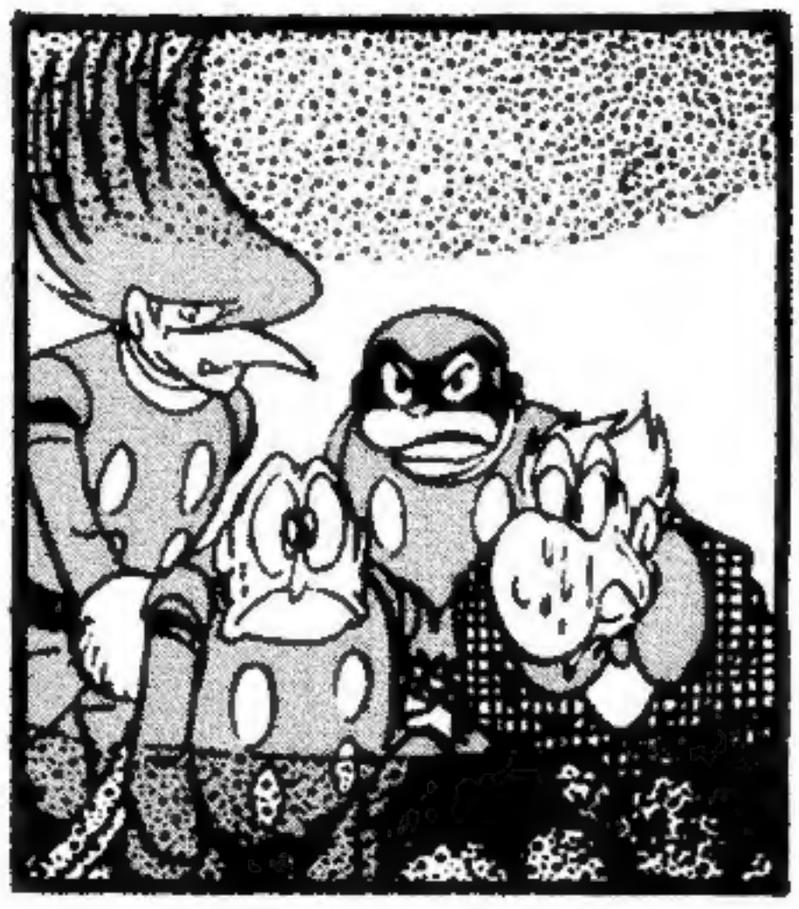
But, it was a mistake on Black Ghost's side. They used Helen from the Underground Empire as a spy to move with the cyborgs. Helen was one of the Underground Empire's poor worker class and also the oldest one of five siblings (quintuplets).
Helen's sisters, Venus, Diana, Aphro, and Daphne were under the control of Van Bogart, a Black Ghost subordinate. Helen and her sisters communicated with each other through a telepathic ability they share within themselves.
And now, in "Hades", the cyborgs have gotten themselves into a pinch.



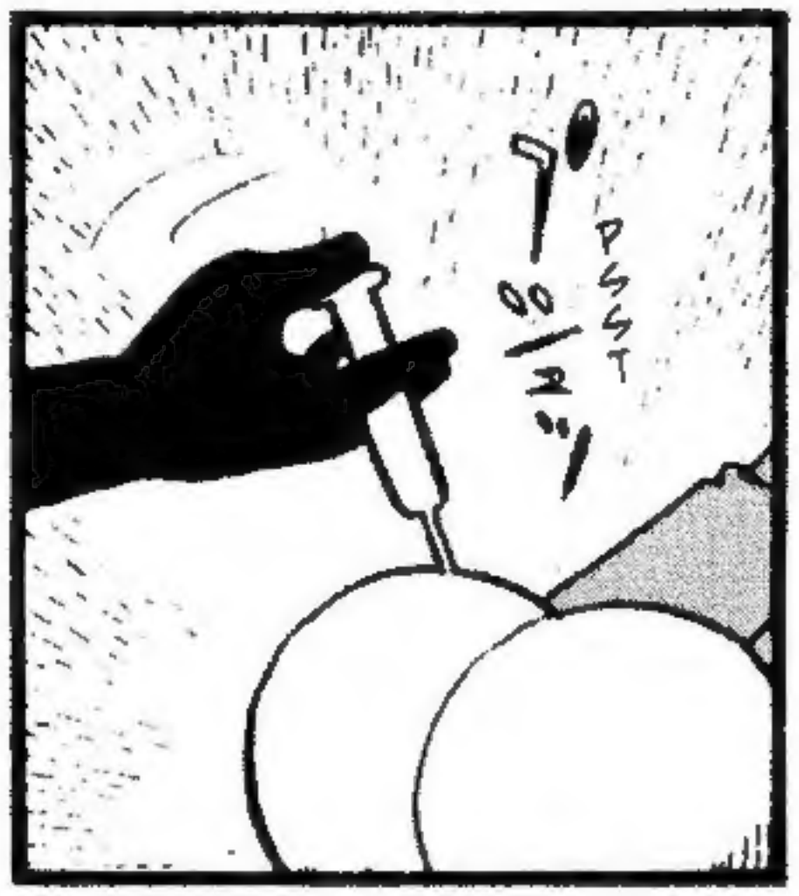




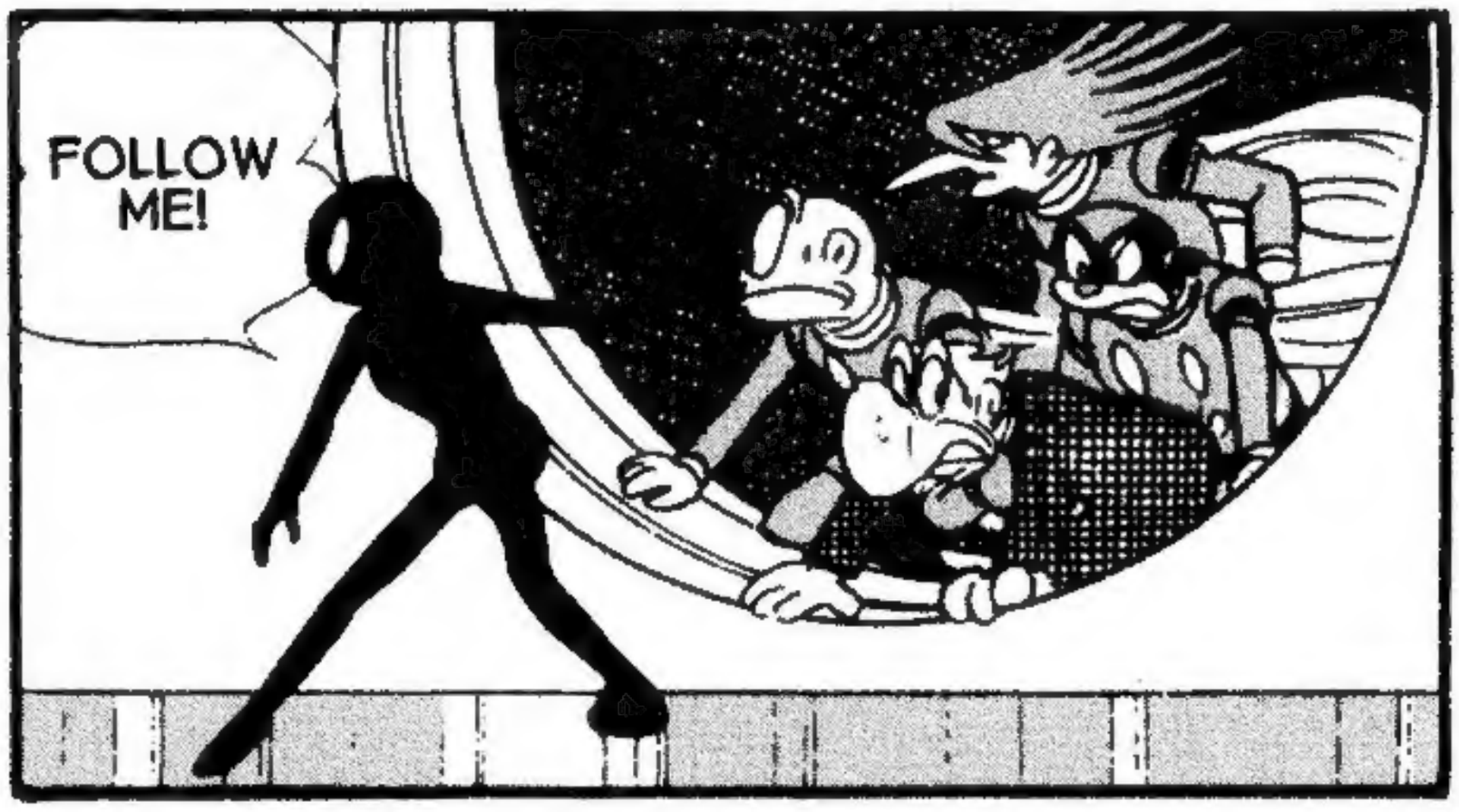
TEEP!



SHH! QUIET...
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT'S GOING ON?


PSST

TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
AH.


FOLLOW ME!

TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
HURRY! THIS WAY!
THE ALARM.
THEY MUST HAVE ESCAPED!
WHERE DID THEY GO?
AH.
AH.
AH.
DASH
DOOF
SOK
WHOK!

CLOSE IT.

BEEP

THROW THEM IN HERE.

HEHE HEHE! THANKS.

ARE YOU A WOMAN?

COME. GO THIS WAY.

NOT SO FAST!

WHAT ARE WE WAITING AROUND FOR? LET'S GO!

THAT SHOULD MAKE THIS A WHOLE LOT EASIER!

NOW WE HAVE BLASTERS!

THERE'S NO TIME FOR FORMALITIES. FOR NOW, WE HAVE TO HIDE.

WHO ARE YOU?

WHY DON'T YOU SHOW US WHO YOU ARE?

WEE-OO

WEE-OO

WEE-OO

THEY'RE LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU RIGHT NOW.

AH.

WEE-OO

WEE-OO

...

WEE-OO

WEE-OO

CHAK

WEE-OO

WEE-OO

WEE-OO

WEE-OO

WEE-OO

WEE-OO

N...NO, SISTER APHRO!

DID ANYONE FIND YOU DAPHNE?

...HURRY!

WEE-OO

WEE-OO

WEE-OO

DIANA!

GASP!

FWISH

I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT THEY'RE RUNNING LOOSE IN THE COMPLEX.

THE CYBORGS HAVE ESCAPED.

HUH?

YOU HAVE TO STAY IN YOUR ROOMS. IT'S VERY DANGEROUS OUT THERE.

AND APHRO AND DAPHNE...

PURSUIT MICE CAN SEARCH EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF THIS BUILDING UNTIL WE FIND THEM.

DON'T WORRY. WE'LL FIND THEM. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

.....

NO MATTER HOW WELL THEY HIDE OR HOW FAINT THEIR ODOR, THIS ROBOT MOUSE CAN TRACK THEM DOWN.

TH-THAT'S...

ONCE THEY'RE FOUND, THIS TRANSMITTER WILL TELL ME WHERE THEY ARE SO I CAN DEAL WITH THEM... PERSONALLY.

...

RUN ALONG!

LOOK! IT'S FOUND THEM ALREADY.

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK

UNHH... DAMMIT.

SISTER VENUS!

ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

004, IT'S TOO LATE TO FIGHT. IT'S BETTER TO GO QUIETLY.

CLICK

TRUST ME. IT'S BETTER THIS WAY.

PLEASE, 004! WE CAN FIGHT LATER. I KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT...

WE CAN TAKE THEM!

THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN STOP ME!

GRAB

AH.

FSSSSSS

PAK

FSSSSSS

FSSSSSS

FSSSS

...

POOWF

POOWF

LOOOOOO

WEEEEN

PAK

PAK

ROARRRR

RUMBLE

WAAH.

AAH.

OVER HERE, JOE! I'M FINE! BUT HELEN...

WHERE IS EVERYONE?

I HOPE THEY MADE IT!

RUMB!

RUMB!

RUMB!

RUMB!

GOOD THINK-ING.

003. STOP BREATHING EXTERNALLY AND USE YOUR CYBERNETIC OXYGEN TANKS.

ACK! THIS SMELL IS TERRIBLE. WE'RE GOING TO RUN OUT OF OXYGEN SOON.

SHE'S JUST UNCONSCIOUS. WE SHOULD GET HER OUT OF HERE THOUGH.

SPLISH

IS HE OKAY?

WHAT?

001 WAS HIT.

WHERE IS 001?

005!

SPLISH

SPLISH

009 and the others are communicating with their electromagnetic wave transmission device, a cyborg enhancement that allows them to speak telepathically.

THE SHIP WAS ALSO SWALLOWED.

WE MIGHT AS WELL JUMP ON BOARD.

009! OVER HERE.

WE'VE BEEN SWALLOWED BY A GIGANTIC MONSTER!

NO, IT'S GASTRIC JUICE.

WHA? IS THAT RAIN?

HMM. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.

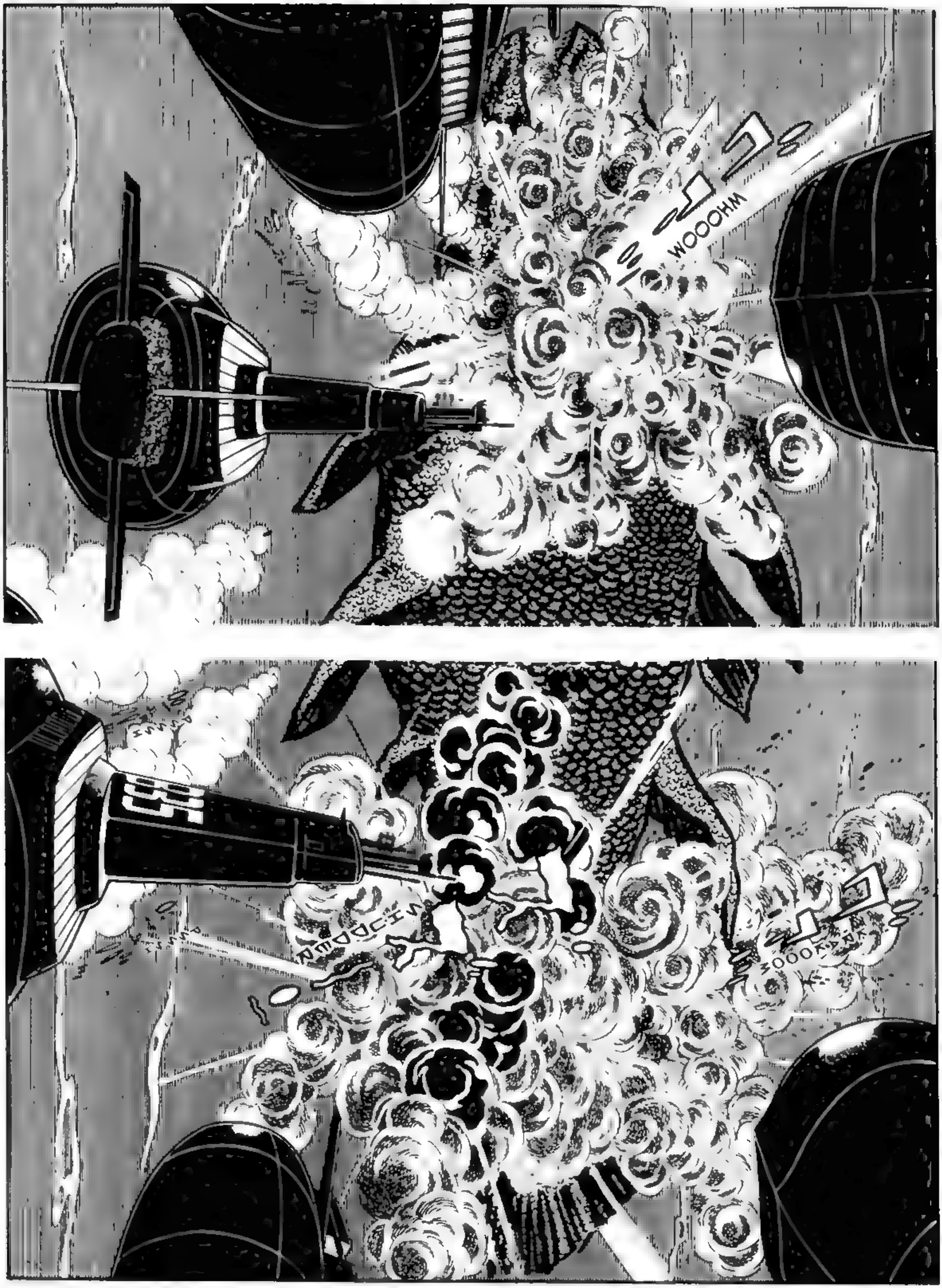
W-WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

KA-CHA

HURRY!

GET INSIDE!

YIKES! IT FEELS LIKE THE ACID IS GOING TO MAKE ME MELT!


WOOOHM
WOOOHM

VJUJUŃ

SHUDDER

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE, 003?

WE'RE BEING ATTACKED BY SUBMARINES! WELL, WE'RE NOT BEING ATTACKED, BUT OUR HOST IS.

DO DO DO DO DO DO

WOW! WE'RE BEING SAVED BY BLACK GHOST!

009, WHAT'S WRONG WITH 001?

UHH HUU...

I DOUBT WE'LL BE SAVED. AT THIS RATE, WE'LL BE BLOWN TO PIECES TOO!

TRUST ME, NO ONE'S HERE TO SAVE US.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY DID IT GET SO QUIET?

HUH?

HE DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.

001, 001, HANG IN THERE!

WHUNK

...THE SUBMARINES ARE RAMMING INTO EACH OTHER!

I... I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

WHUD

182

203

KRRRT

WHOOM

WHOOM

WHOOM

HE'S INJURED, BUT HE CAN STILL THINK.

THERE'S NO WAY, HE'S TOO INJURED!

...001, ARE YOU RESPON-SIBLE?

0011...

.....

AH, WHAT NOW?

THE MONSTER IS MOVING AGAIN!

WE'RE HEADED STRAIGHT TOWARDS THAT ISLAND. I DON'T KNOW HOW SAFE IT IS, THOUGH.

001, I HOPE YOU'RE TAKING US TO SAFETY!

IT IS! 001 IS DOING IT!

BUT... AFTER ALL THAT, ISN'T IT DEAD?

.....

AAAH.

UOOGH.

AAAA-RGH.

SPLISH

SPLISH

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK

ROBOT MICE! MOST LIKELY SENT TO FIND US.

OH NO! MICE! NOT JUST NORMAL MICE, EITHER!

HEY...WHAT IS THAT? SOMETHING ELSE IS IN HERE!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO 007?

LET ME TAKE CARE OF THIS.

NOT SO FAST!

HERE...

HURRY, GET 'EM! STOMP ON THEM ALL!!

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK AND ALL WILL BE WELL!

DON'T YOU WORRY.

HEHE HEHE.

SQUIRK

BNNNNT
BNNNNT
BNNNNT
BNNNNT
... DROP DEAD!
HMM, PESKY MICE...
UHYUU...
...TUHEE...
...TOHOO
HYAAA...
...KYAA.
TIME FOR YET ANOTHER STAR PERFORMANCE FROM THE GREAT...ERR, GREAT BRITAIN!
MUCH TOO EASY.
DA DA DA
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT IS IT?
HIEE.
AND I'VE NEVER LIKED THEM, SO...
...THESE MICE FLEW OUT AT ME... YEAH...
...I WAS LOOKING AROUND HERE...
AHHH, MR. BOGART...
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
SQUISH
WHEEZE
WHEEZE

REALLY?

THEY WERE CHASING THE CYBORGS!

CAN'T YOU SEE?! THESE MICE AREN'T REAL! THEY'RE MACHINES!

YOU IMBECILE!

IN OTHER WORDS...

THEY... THEY CAN'T BE! I JUST SEARCHED THE AREA COMPLETELY.

NOW IT'S UP TO YOU TO FIND THEM! THEY'RE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.

...

UH HEH.

SOMEONE OF YOUR MENTAL CAPACITY COULDN'T HAVE PERFORMED TOO 'COMPLETE' OF A SEARCH.

HMM, ARE YOU CERTAIN?

WHO? ME?

WAIT ONE SECOND! NOW I RECOGNIZE YOU. YOU'RE ONE OF THE BROTHERS THAT WAS THERE WHEN THEY ESCAPED!

TAK

THEY'RE HERE!

THIS WAY!

UH... UH...

YOU'VE ALREADY PROVEN YOUR USELESSNESS! YOU MUST BE PUNISHED!!

YOU PATHETIC UNDER-GROUND CITIZEN...

RATTLE

COME ON! LET'S GO.

YIKES!

WHEW!

TATATATATA

.....

MAYBE OUR COMRADES WHO ARE COMING THIS WAY.

COULD IT BE...

BUT WHO DID THEY FIND OVER THERE?

D-DON'T SCARE ME.

SOMEHOW, YOUR AWFUL PLAN STILL WORKED IN OUR FAVOR.

IT'S US.

COME ON! THIS WAY.

EITHER WAY, WE SHOULD GET MOVING.

IF IT'S NOT THEM, IT MAY BE THAT MYSTERIOUS WOMAN THAT JUST SAVED US.

HMM.

THEY SHOULD'VE BEEN AROUND HERE, RIGHT?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE UNDER-DWELLER?

WHERE ARE THEY?

THERE WERE TWO PEOPLE DRESSED ENTIRELY IN BLACK!

BAH! THERE'S NOWHERE FOR THEM TO RUN AROUND HERE.

IT'S... HIM!

FWISH

SOME-ONE'S COMING.

HURRY... HURRY!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHA-WHAT?
WHO'S BEEN HERE? TELL ME NOW!
AND WE WERE SCARED...
IT WAS NOISY OUTSIDE...
TH-THIS IS...
HMM... WHY ARE YOU SWEATING?
004, EH? THAT'S THE ONE WHO ESCAPED WITH MY PRECIOUS VENUS!
MR. BOGART, WE'VE CAPTURED A CYBORG WITH THE NUMBER 004. WE'RE HOLDING HIM HERE.
HMM...?
...HU HU HU.
DON'T MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIS FRIENDS TO FIND HIM.
HOLD 004 IN THE CENTRAL COLISEUM.
THE OTHER FOUR ESCAPEES WILL COME RUNNING FOR HIM ANY TIME NOW.
EXCELLENT! WE'LL USE HIM AS BAIT.

ARRIVE AT THE CENTRAL COLISEUM AT 2 O'CLOCK TODAY TO WITNESS FIRSTHAND...

WE CAN'T RISK HIM. THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

WE SHOULDN'T TELL THEM WHERE 004 IS. IT'S A TRAP!

BE CAREFUL, DIANA!

I'M GOING TO GO.

THEY'RE GONE!

I'M TOO LATE!

HMM.

004!

...THE BRUTAL EXECUTION OF TRAITOROUS CYBORG...

AAH.

HEH HEH HEH. IT LOOKS LIKE 004 HAS MORE FRIENDS THAN I SUSPECTED.

TREACHE-
ROUS
WOMAN!

FWAP
FWAP

TAK
TAK
TAK

I SHOULD
SHOOT
YOU
NOW...

BUT YOU...

...YOU WILL NEED
RESCUING! GET UP!!

.....

I'LL JUST
ADD YOU TO
THE TRAP!
004 CAN
FIGHT FOR
HIMSELF.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
WHY WOULD
YOU WANT
TO REBEL
AGAINST ME?

HMPH. THAT'S
RIGHT. YOU ALL
UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER'S
WILL.

...I
UNDER-
STAND.

THEY'RE
PROBABLY IN
CAPTIVITY
RIGHT NOW,
ANYWAY.

DON'T EVEN
ATTEMPT TO
CONTACT
YOUR
SISTERS.

YE... YES.

IS THAT IT? AM I RIGHT?

I'M AFRAID 004 HAS CONTAMINATED ALL OF YOUR THOUGHTS WHEN HE CAPTURED VENUS. THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH YOU TELEPATHS!

.....

HMM.

AH.

YOU PUPPET!

HEH, I CAN'T BELIEVE A WORD YOU SAY.

YES SIR.

TAKE THEM TO THE CENTRAL COLISEUM!

...

HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?

HUH?

THE HYPNOSIS IS WEARING OFF!

YES, SISTER HELEN!

DID YOU HEAR THAT?

KERSPLASH

AH.

WHERE AM I?

...APHRO...

...DAPHNE...

VENUS...

WHERE IS EVERY-ONE?

...DIANA...

WHO... WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

AH...

SISTER, YOU'VE BEEN UNDER ZARTAN'S HYPNOSIS FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

CALM DOWN!

SISTER HELEN.

I...I WONDER WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE?

...MMM, H...HEY, HELEN.

...

HUH?

AND THOSE PEOPLE ARE ALL YOUR--NO, OUR--ALLIES! THEY FOUGHT TO SAVE US.

MMM.

CAN YOU LOCATE THE OTHERS? HEY 003... 005, 006, WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU'RE ALRIGHT! I WAS WORRIED!

...UNH! THAT'S ALL I CAN REMEMBER.

AND THEN...

...AND THEN...

THEN, THOSE LIZARD BEASTS ATTACKED!

THE LAST WE SAW THEM, WE WERE ALL IN THAT UNDERGROUND TUNNEL.

WAIT! THAT'S RIGHT, I REMEMBER!

ARE YOU SURE IT'S HIS BLOOD?

OH NO!

001... THERE'S BLOOD COMING FROM HIS MOUTH...

IS IT TIME FOR BREAKFAST?

HELLO, GOOD MORNING.

GOOD!

HE'S OKAY. HE'S ONLY SLEEPING.

B- BUT...

HIS HEALING POWERS ARE ASTOUNDING. IT MUST BE PART OF HIS INFANT PSYCHIC ABILITIES.

THERE'S NOT EVEN A SCAR!

THE BLOOD... IT DISAP- PEARED!

HUH? WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

...EXPLAIN EVERYTHING. I WILL...

HOW DID HE GET WOUNDED IN THE FIRST PLACE?

BLOOP BLOOP BLOOP BLOOP BLOOP

FWASH

BLOOP BLOOP BLOOP

SPLASH SPLASH

SOME-HOW, 001 GOT HURT...

BUT...

BUT HE WAS ASLEEP WHEN THE REST OF US GOT HYPNOTIZED.

ZARTAN, THAT CARNIVOROUS LIZARD, HAD US ALL UNDER HIS SPELL...

UNBELIE-VABLE!

THEN WE ESCAPED OUT TO SEA, HEADED FOR THAT ISLAND.

NOW IT ALL MAKES SENSE!

...

YOU ARE ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNDER-GROUND EMPIRE!

OOO, AHHH, OHHH.

004, VENUS, AND MY OTHER SISTERS WERE ALL CAPTURED BY BLACK GHOST... THEN...

WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THEM?

WHAT ABOUT 004 AND VENUS?

SO, YOU MEAN, HE ESCAPED BEING HYPNOTIZED BECAUSE HE WAS ASLEEP WHEN IT HAPPENED!

WHAT IS IT?!

AAH!

...002'S GROUP IS GOING TO RESCUE 004 AT THE... CENTRAL COLISEUM!

VENUS!

VENUS IS IN THE COLISEUM...!

ビビビ
BZZZZ

VENUSI

004!

ビビビビビビビビ
BZZZZZZZZ

VERY INTER-ESTING AND ENTER-TAINING!

HU HU HU.

VENUSI~

VENUS, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS IS NO ONE'S FAULT...

BZZZZ

E-E-E

BZZZZ

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT! I... I FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS! NOW, WE'RE GOING TO DIE AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE GOING TO FALL IN A TRAP!

004, I'M SORRY.

BZZZZZZ

E-E-E

004!

BZZZZZZZZ

UNHH.

WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER LONG ENOUGH! I DESERVE TO KNOW...

PLEASE, 004...

ONE THING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE CYBORGS IS WE NEVER GIVE UP!

YOU'RE BEING RIDICU-LOUS!

WHAT IS YOUR REAL NAME?

WE'RE GOING TO DIE. CAN YOU TELL ME ONE LAST THING?

I WANT TO KNOW YOUR REAL NAME!

UH... UH... UH!

DON'T WORRY. THERE'S NO WAY FOR THEM TO ENTER THE COLISEUM WITHOUT US SPOTTING THEM.

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF OF THEM. THEIR FRIENDS SHOULD BE HERE SHORTLY.

...

CHUK

?
?
?

AHH, BRO-THER!

THEY'RE HERE.

HEHE HEHE, STUPID.

HMM.

IT SEEMS THEY HAVE ARRIVED.

THEY'RE HERE?

THEY'RE HERE?

THEY'RE HERE!

ONCE WE DESTROY AND DISMANTLE THEM, IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM TO REMODEL THEM.

HU HU HU, LET THE COOKING BEGIN.

WAIT UNTIL THEY ENTER THE COLISEUM BEFORE YOU SHOOT THEM!

ALRIGHT! GET INSIDE THE COLISEUM FOR NOW.

BZZZZ

EWEEET

HU HU... I'M GETTING ANXIOUS!

ALBERT HEINRICH!

UH... ALBERT...

PLEASE!

004... HURRY!

BZZZZ

BZZZZ

AH.

VENUS, GET BEHIND THE POST!

ALBERT HEINRICH.

GOOD-BYE...

BZZZZZZZ

WOOOM

NOT BAD!

HMPH!

HE-HEINRICH!

VENUS!

HMM.

WHIZZZZ

THEY'RE HERE.

WAIT!

HU HU HU.

SO HE STILL HAD THAT MICRO MISSILE LAUNCHER IN HIS LEG...

THAP

OHH, 002!

004, THE RESCUE PARTY HAS ARRIVED!

FWOOOSH

THAT COULD HAVE BEEN A LITTLE MORE GRACEFUL.

WONK

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!!

ALRIGHT! WHO WANTS SOME?

スト

FWAP

WHIRRRR

TURN

YOU'RE IN THE PALM OF MY HAND!

HU HU HU. FOOLS!

WHIRRRR

DUN

DUN

DUN

DUN

WHIRRRR

WHIRRRR

I'M COMING, 004! HANG ON.

AH!

UHH.

EHOK

WEEEEN

WHOK

WEEEEN

WHAT IS THIS THING?

D-DAMN.

...OR I CAN BE BLOWN TO BITS!

GOTTA-BE CARE-FUL IT DOESN'T HIT ME...

FWISH

FOR AN IRON BALL, THIS THING CAN MOVE!!

IT WOULD HAVE TO BE...

HMM, I WONDER IF IT'S BEING REMOTE CONTRO-LLED...

WHIZZZZZ

UNLESS IT HAS A MIND OF IT'S OWN!

WEEEEN

...THERE'S NO WAY IT'S BEING CONTROLLED.

FROM THE WAY IT'S MOVING...

IT'S A CYBORG!

THAT LEAVES ONE OPTION...

NOT ANOTHER ONE!

AH.

WHOK

WHOK

WHOK

KOFW

WHY AREN'T THEY AT-TACKING ME?

WHAT ARE THEY DOING? I'M RIGHT HERE.

I DON'T GET IT.

THERE MUST BE SOME REASON.

THEY NEVER GET CLOSER THAN TWO METERS FROM ONE ANOTHER.

H M M M . . .

THEY'RE HOVERING OVER ME... LIKE VULTURES OVER SOME SORT OF HELPLESS PREY.

AHA! I THINK I'VE GOT IT!

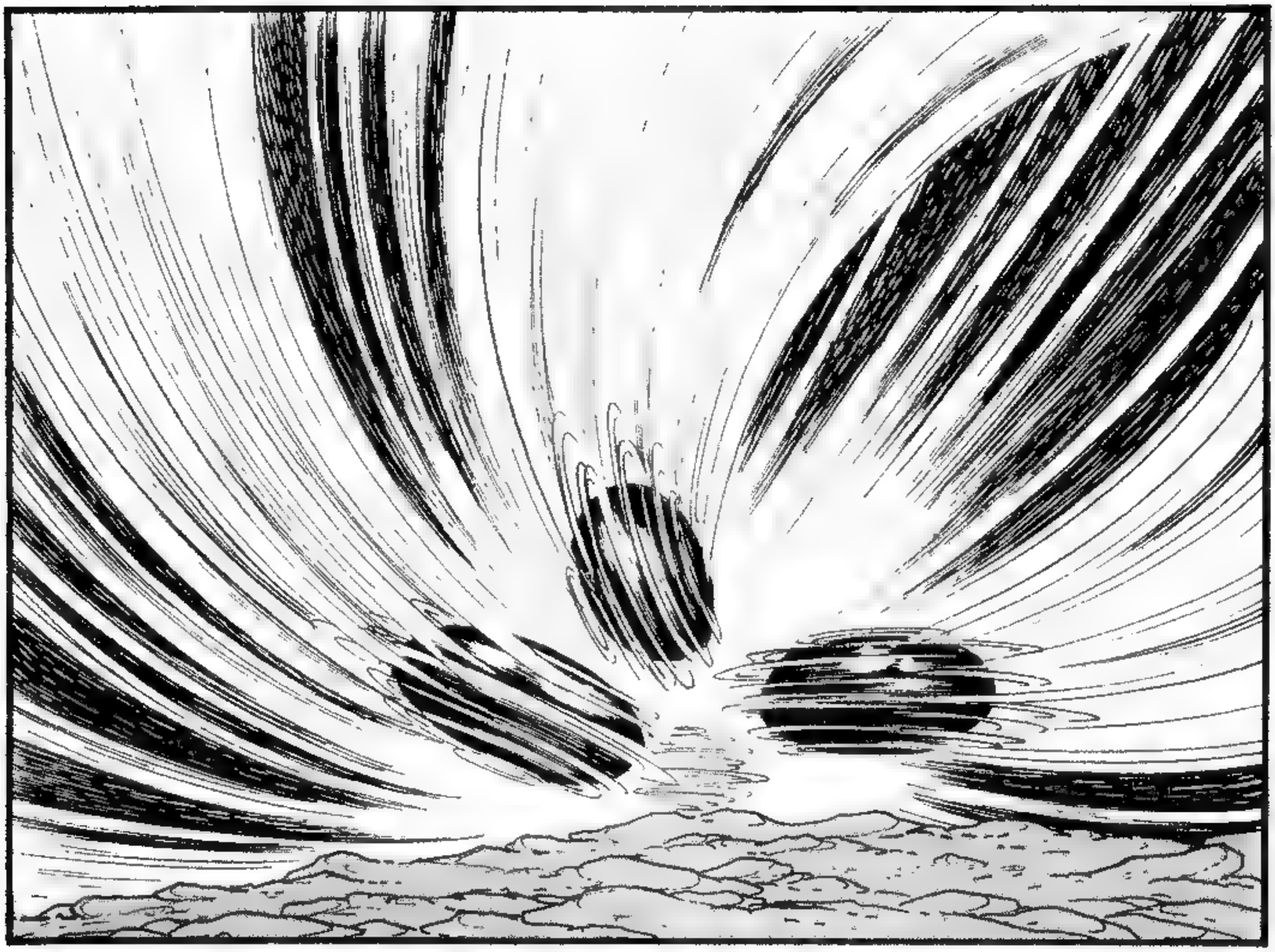
NOT JUST SPIN-NING, THOUGH.

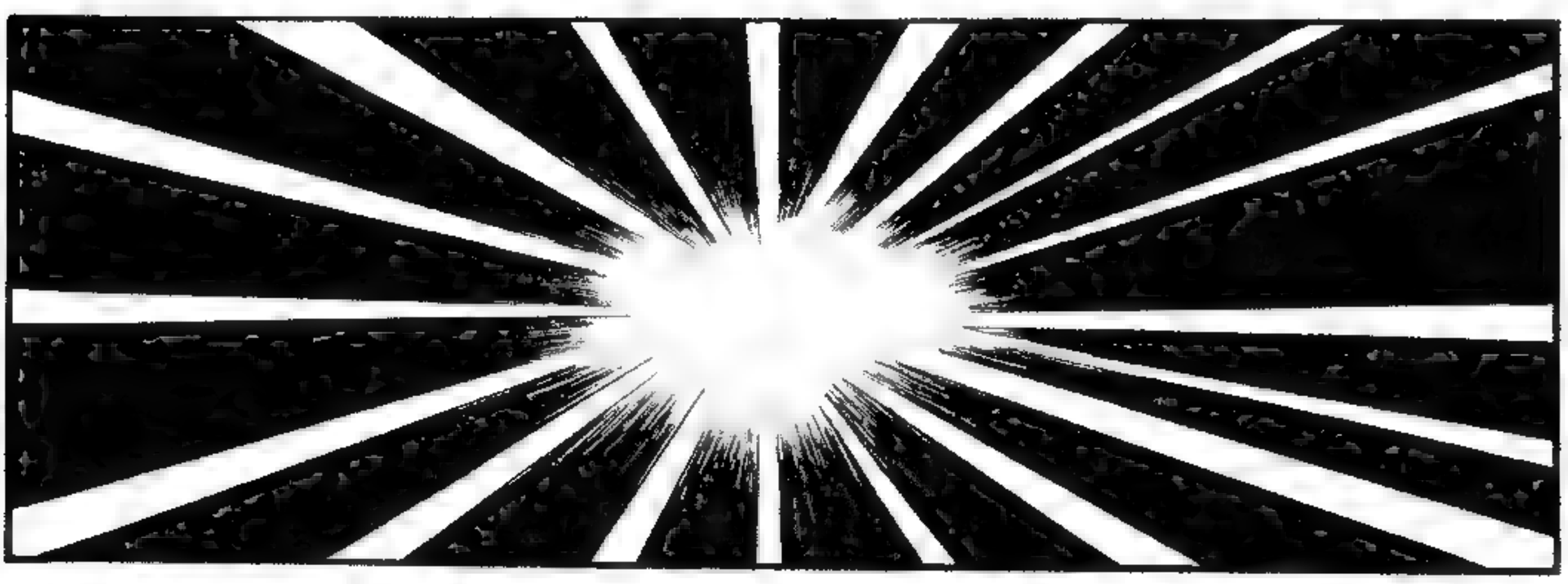
THEY GAIN THEIR MOMENTUM AND DIREC-TION BY CONSTANTLY SPINNING...

THEY'RE FALLING RIGHT INTO MY PLAN.

HAH-

.....





...

A SHELL COVERING A HUMAN BRAIN.

NOTHING BUT A SHELL!

JUST AS I SUS-PECTED.

THE WHOLE OPERATION WAS PROPELLED BY MAGNETS!!

IT'S NO WONDER THEY COULDN'T GET TOO CLOSE TO ONE ANOTHER...

...004!

I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

I'VE GOTTA GET TO 004!

DAMMIT! I WASTED TOO MUCH TIME WITH THOSE SIMPLE CYBORGS.

HMM.

CRACKLE

I'M IN A BIT OF A BIND HERE.

COULD YOU SPEED IT UP, PARTNER?

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

WHOOSH

007? IS THAT REALLY YOU?

FANTASTIC! YOU'VE BROKEN OUT OF YOUR HYPNOTIC TRANCE!

004!

BZZZZZZZT

ROARRRR

DAMN.

BZZZZZZZT

THWOOOM

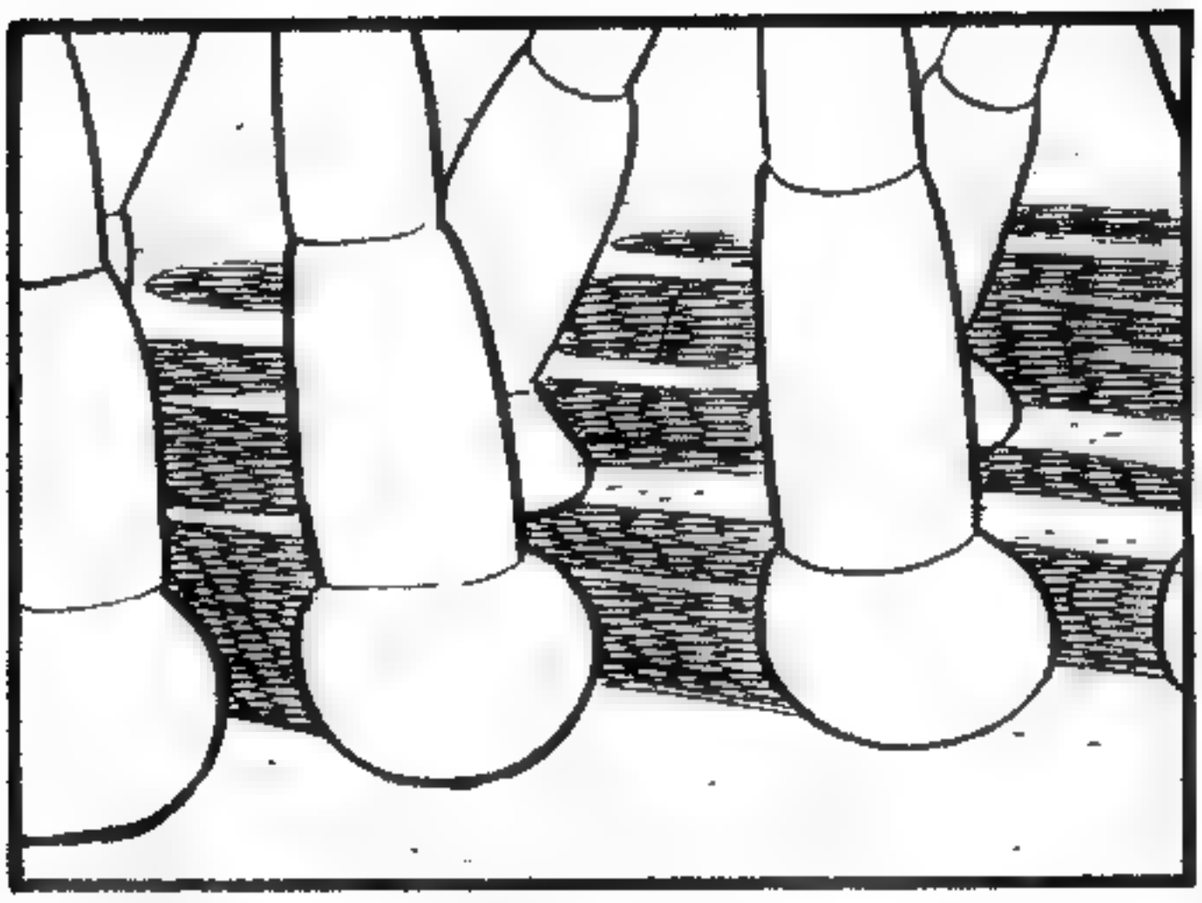
BABABABA

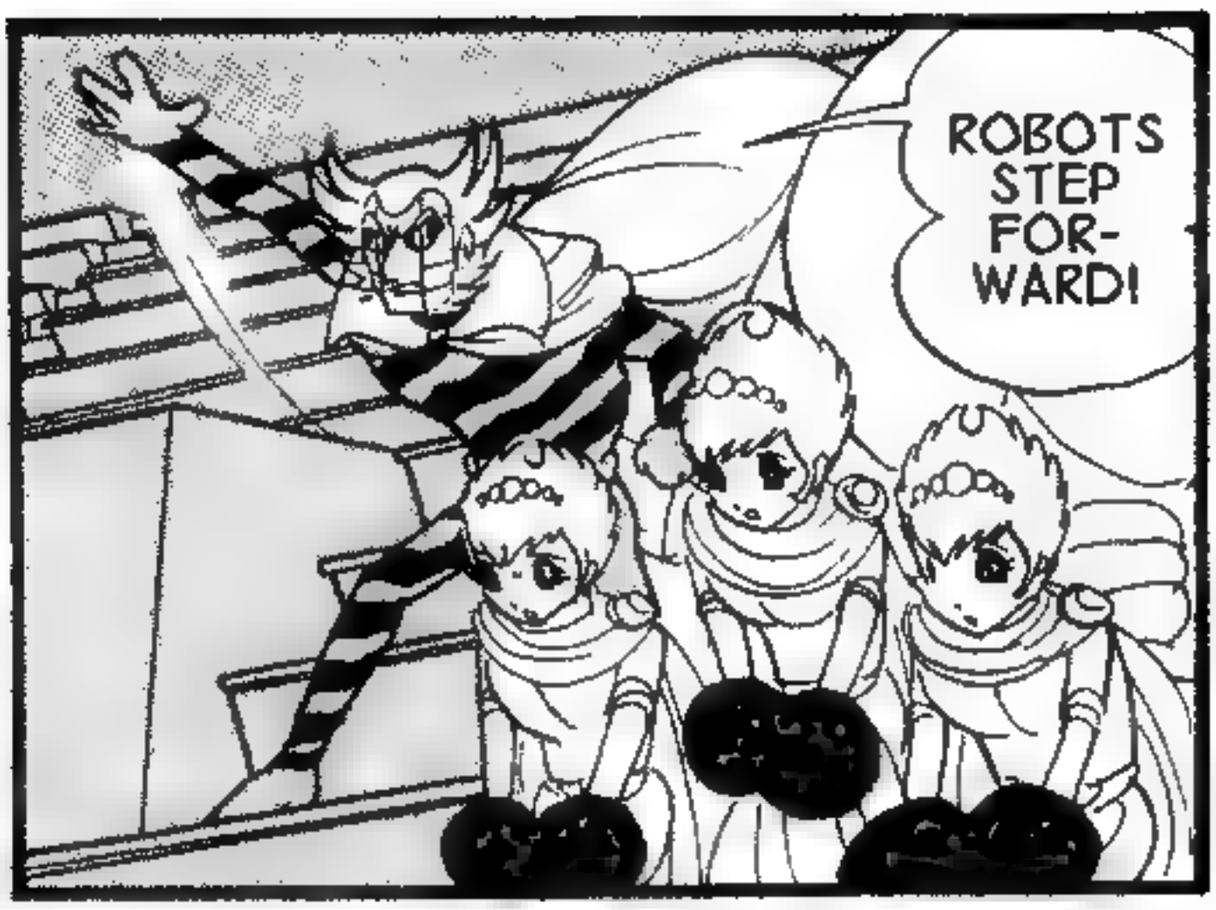
ROARRRR

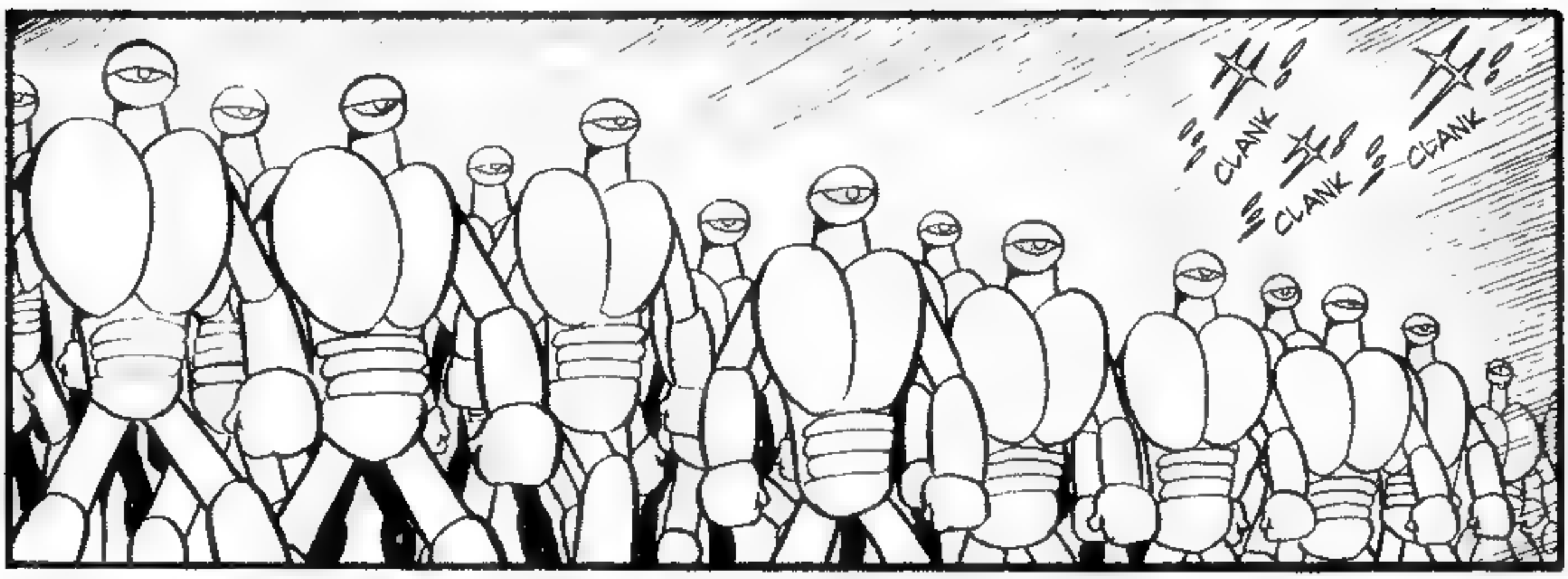
WOOOHMA-Z

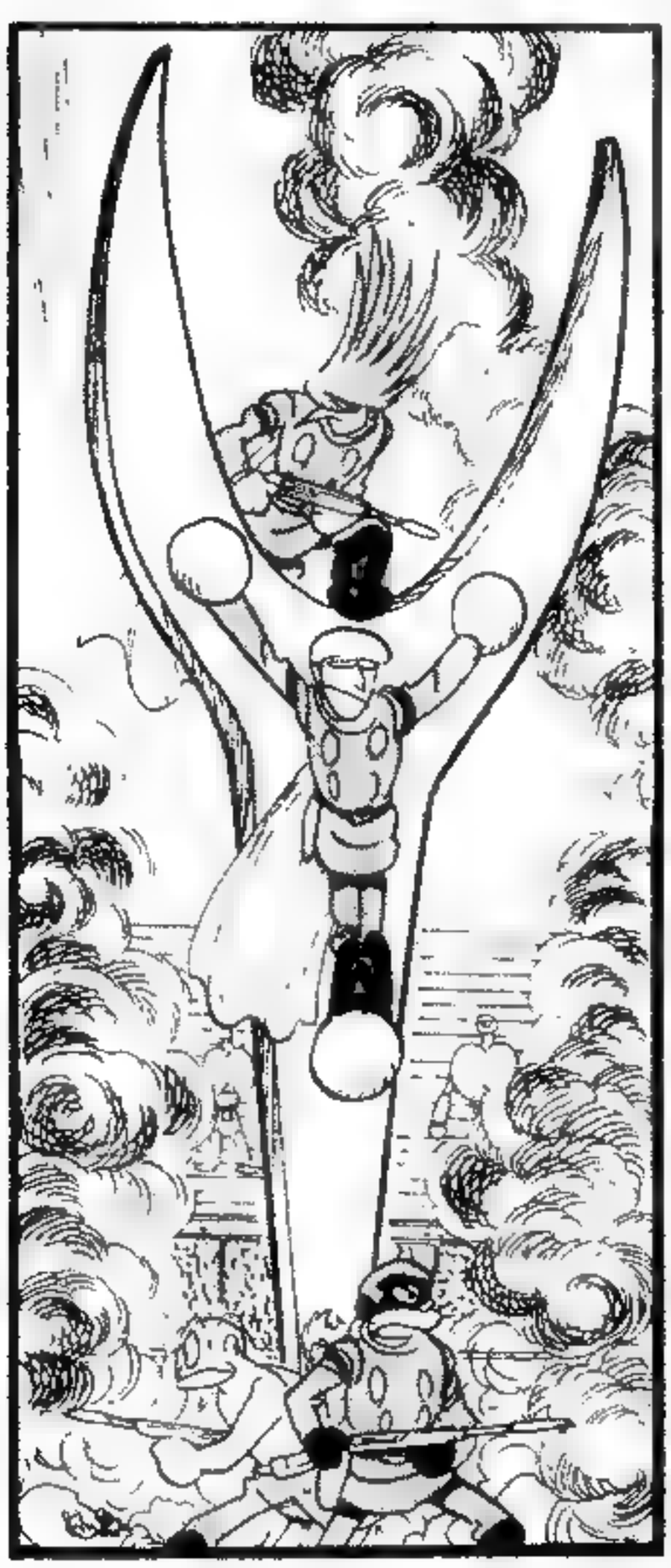
WOOOOAB

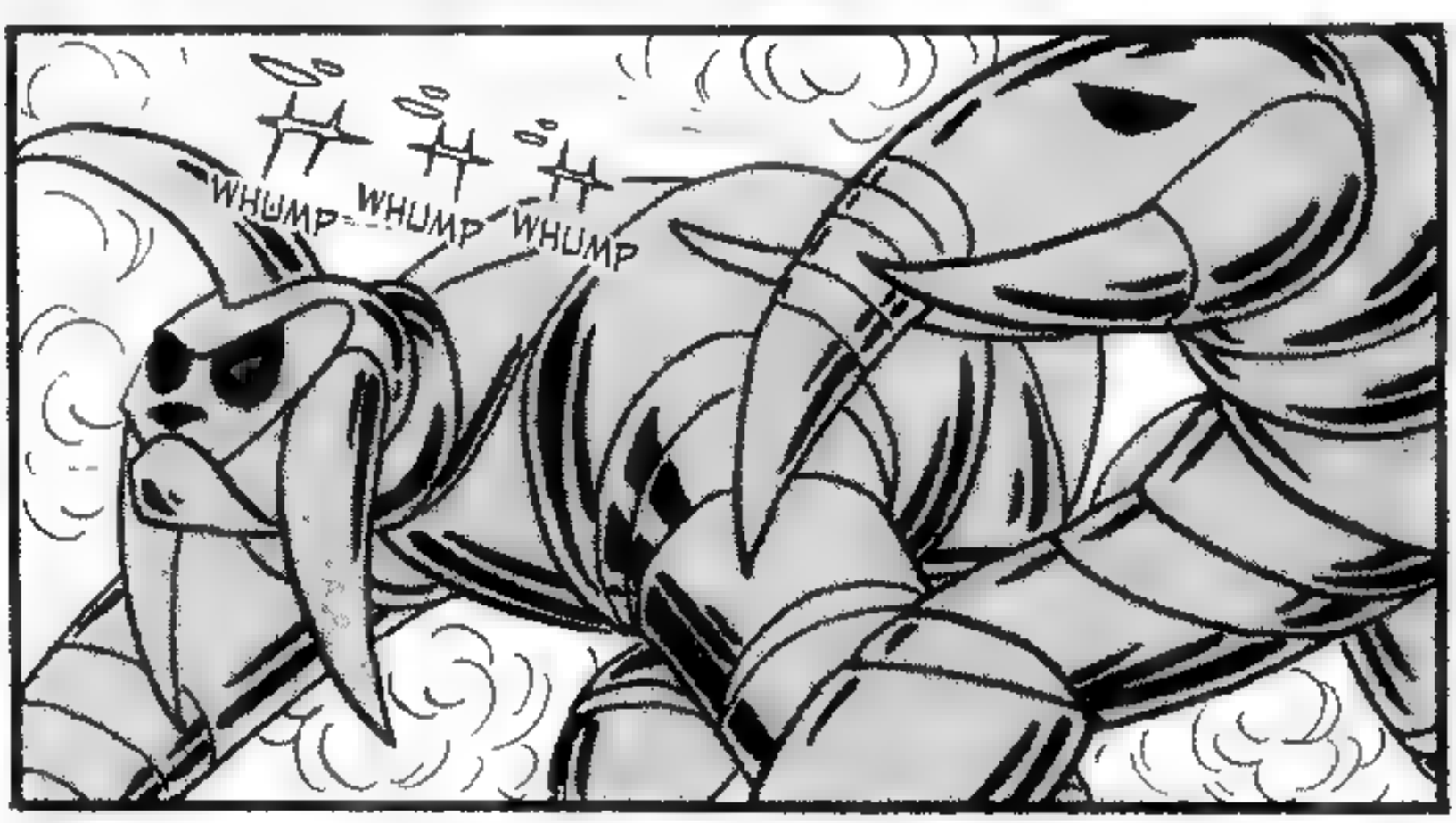
ZZZZZZ



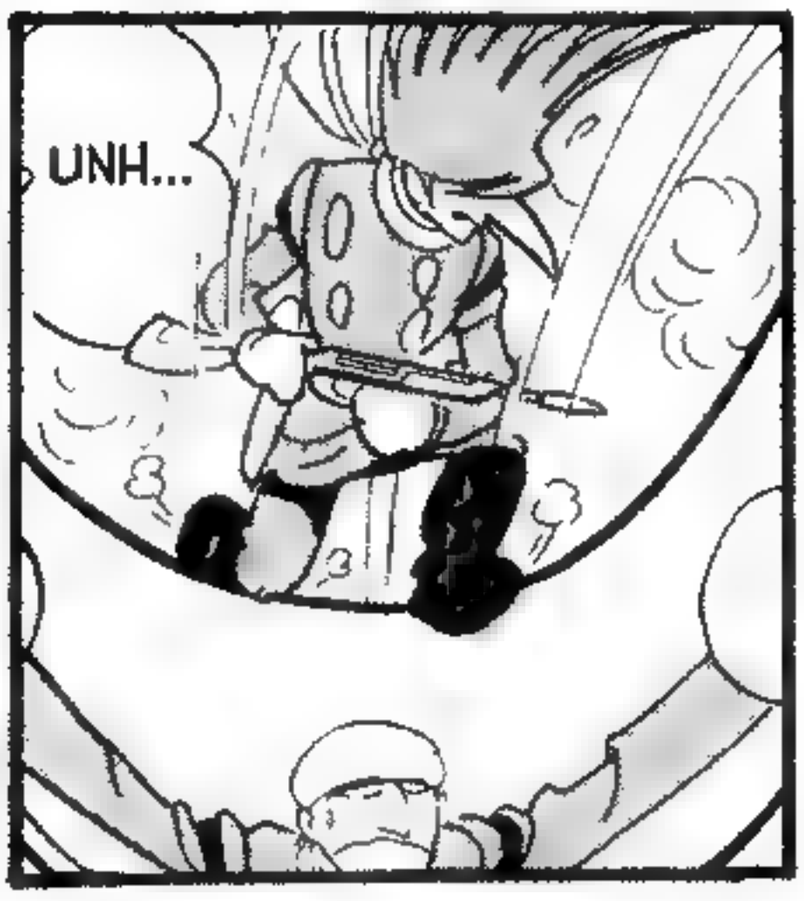

ROBOTS STEP FOR-WARD!


CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK




WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP

READY, WILLING AND ABLE, MATE.
GET READY.


UNH...

SCREECH

FWOOOSH

OOF!

BA

BA

BA

BA

CHEERS! CALL IN THE CAVALRY!

HE MADE IT!

MMM.

RUSTLE

WHOOOM

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

ZZZZZZT

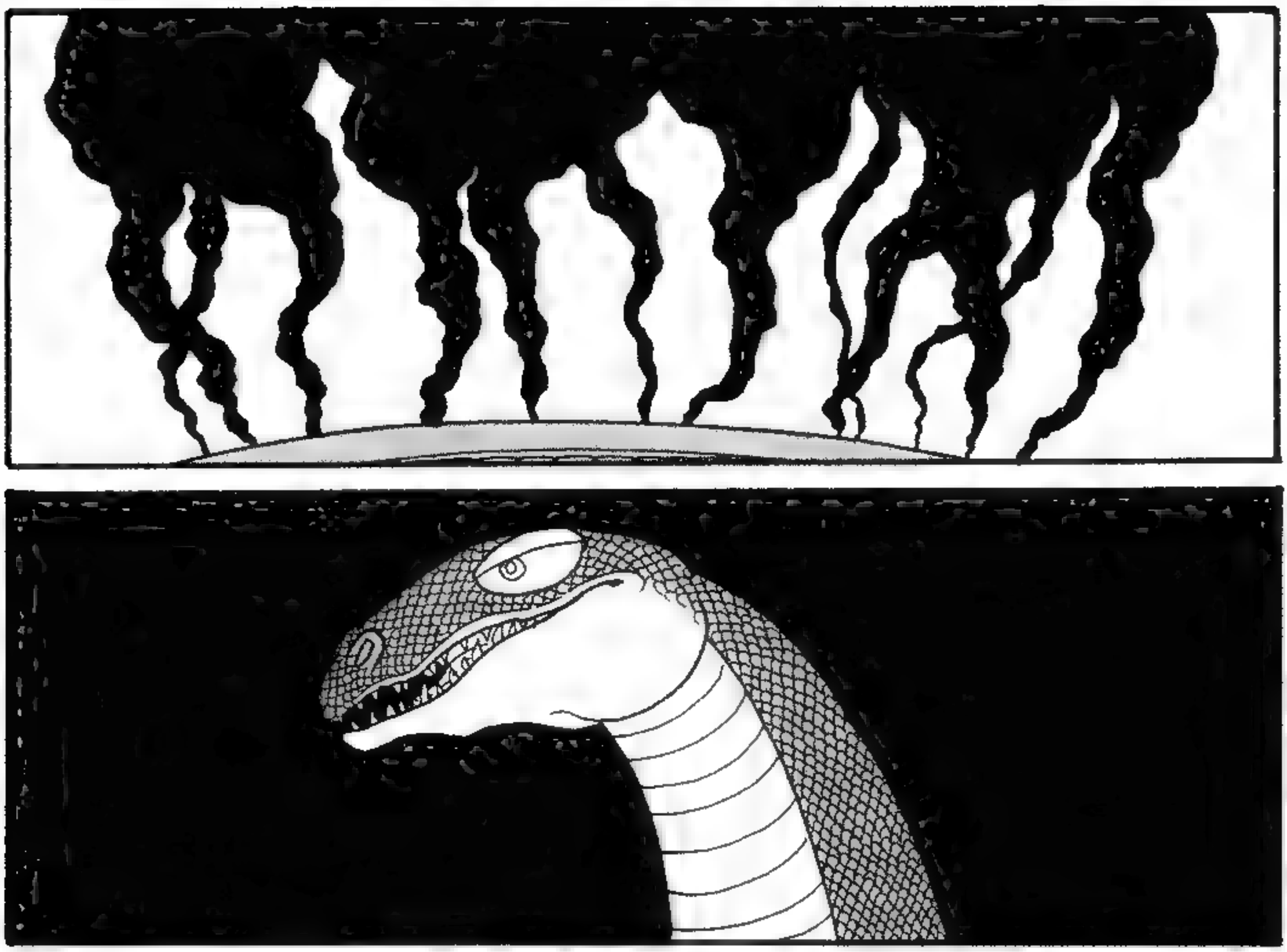
ZZZZZZT

VAN BOGART!

IT'S TIME YOU FACE A REAL OPPONENT!

007!

AH.


FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

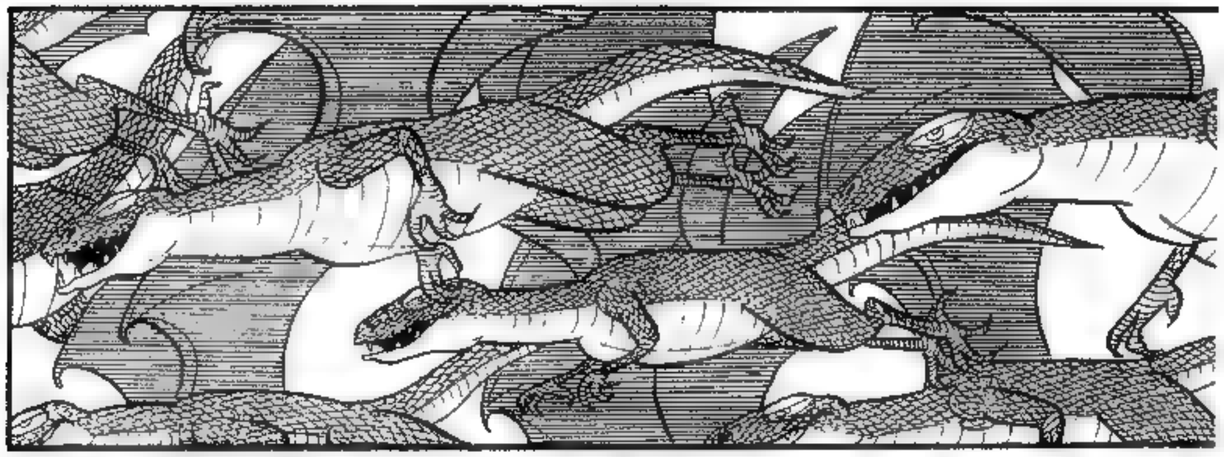
NOW IS THE TIME TO RECLAIM WHAT'S RIGHTFULLY OURS!

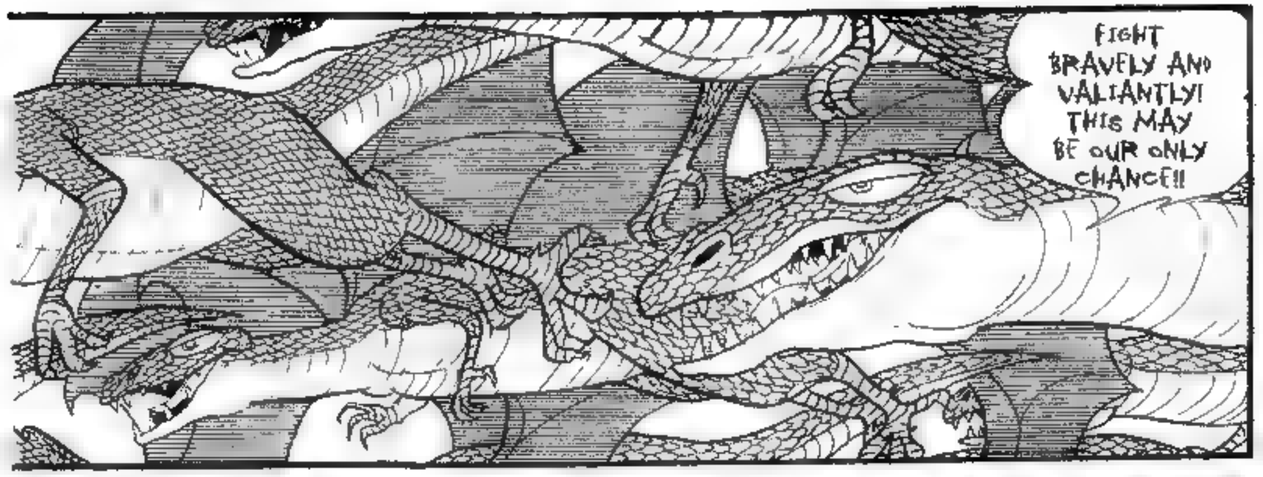
THE ATTACK MUST BE UNDERWAY. JUST AS THE HUMANS SAID.

UP AHEAD. SMOKE!

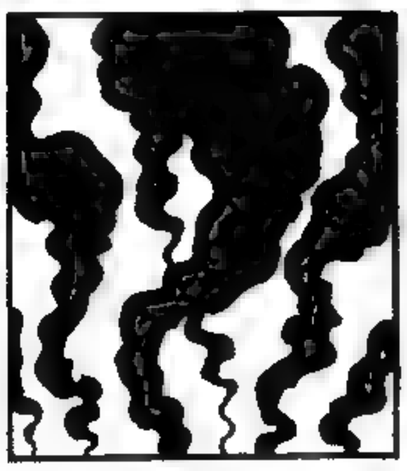
LOOK!

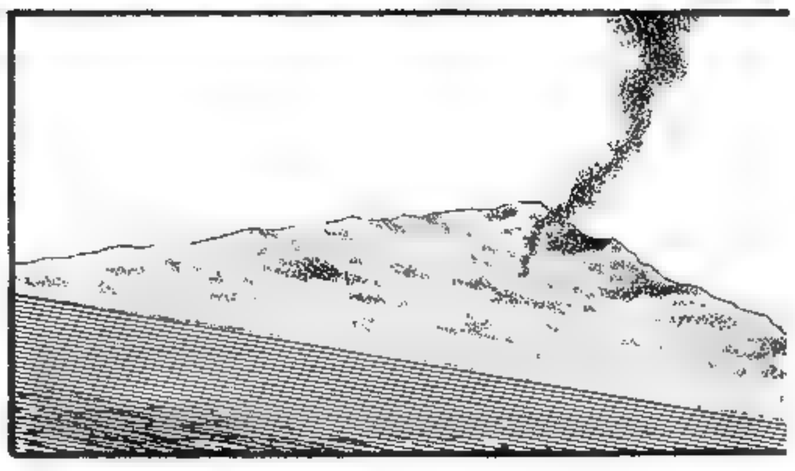
FAP FAP FAP FAP FAP FAP

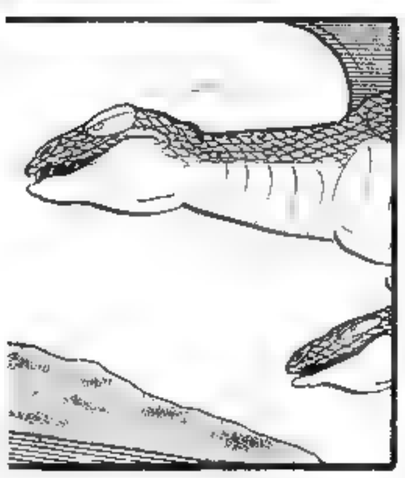


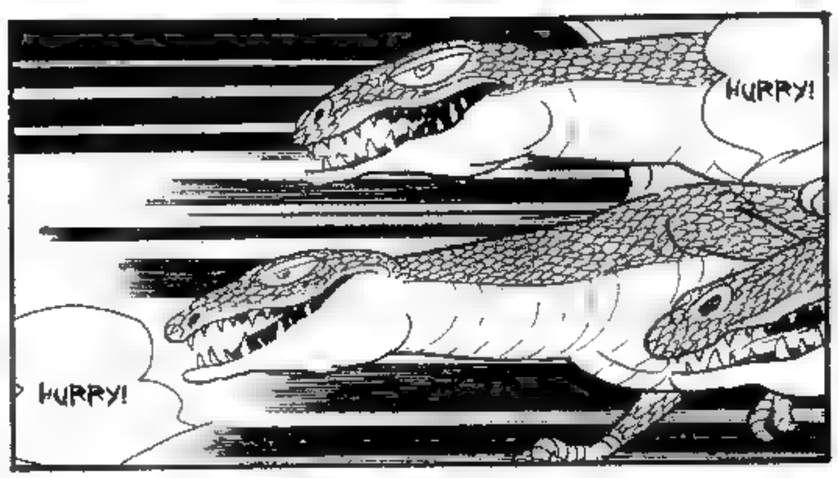

FIGHT BRAVELY AND VALIANTLY! THIS MAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE!!

CHAPTER 36
DECISIVE BATTLE
IT'S TIME TO SEND THE OUTSIDERS AWAY FROM OUR LAND!








HURRY!
HURRY!

BOOOM

BADOOOM

THWOOOM

BABABABABABA

BABABABA

Bzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzt

THOOM

UAH.

KAKOOOM

BA

THIS IS SERIOUS!

GET OUT OF THE WAY.

W-WATCH OUT.

SHEW! LUCKY.

...HEY.

004!

WHUMP

DAMN.

...

STEP ASIDE, VENUS.

WHUD

BZZZT

WILL YOU JUST HURRY UP AND GET ME OFF OF HERE?!

I'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL... GOTTA BE VERY PRECISE...

GOOD WORK, BUDDY!

...HEH.

BOOM

BOOM

THANKS.

SNATCH

HERE. LET'S GET TO WORK.

NO TIME FOR THE CUDDLY STUFF, GANG! THIS FIGHT AIN'T OVER.

004!

BZZZT

BZZZT

TIME TO SERVE THESE GUYS UP A LITTLE DISH OF PAYBACK

I DON'T KNOW. THERE WAS A 'POOF' AND HE DIS-APPEARED.

BY THE WAY, WHERE'S 009?

IT WAS GREAT FOR US! YOU ALMOST DOUBLED OUR STRENGTH. GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK.

YOU THINK IT WAS GOOD FOR YOU?

AHH. THAT FELT GOOD. ALMOST TOO GOOD.

I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE TOO HARD TO DISAPPEAR IN THIS MESS!

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN HIS DISAP-PEARANCE.

DO YOU THINK PERHAPS HE SWITCHED INTO ACCELERATION MODE AND WENT OFF TO FIGHT?

HE-HEY WAIT, UP THERE!

WE'VE BEEN ON THE DEFENSIVE FOR LONG ENOUGH. WE HAVE TO GET ON THE ATTACK.

ENOUGH OF THIS. WE HAVE TO HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF THIS SCRAP-HEAP.

HAH! I THINK I'LL GO INTO THE JUNKYARD BUSINESS!

DAMN.

BZZZZT

OH NO.

HEH HEH HEH.

EEK.

HMM.

SHUUU

FIGURES. HE HAS AN ACCELERATION SWITCH!

BZZZT

...

FLIK

CHOOOM

FWOOOM

WHOOOM

HUH?

BAWHOOOOM

BZZZT

BZZZT

HAH
HAH
HAH.

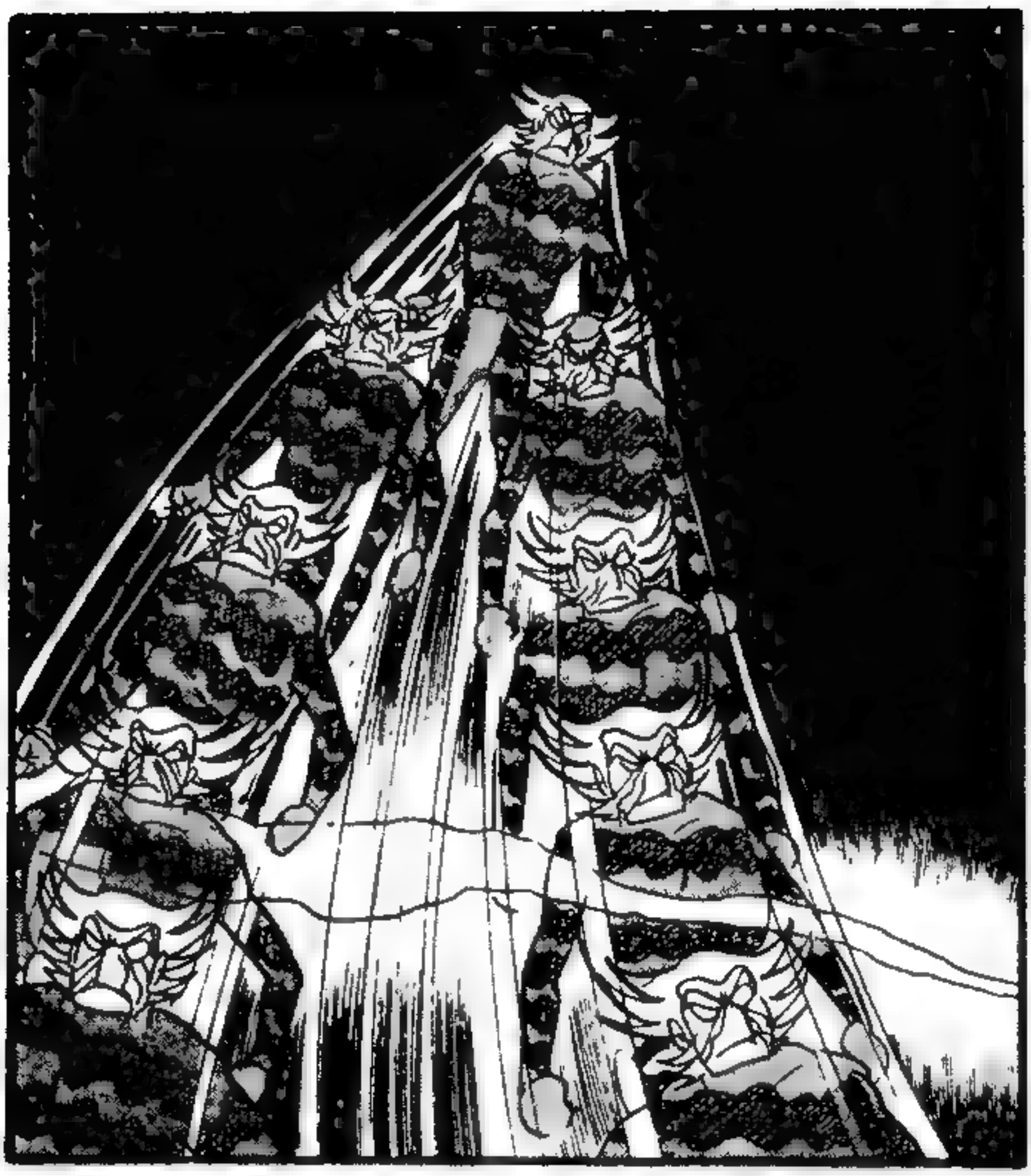
.....

HU HU HU.

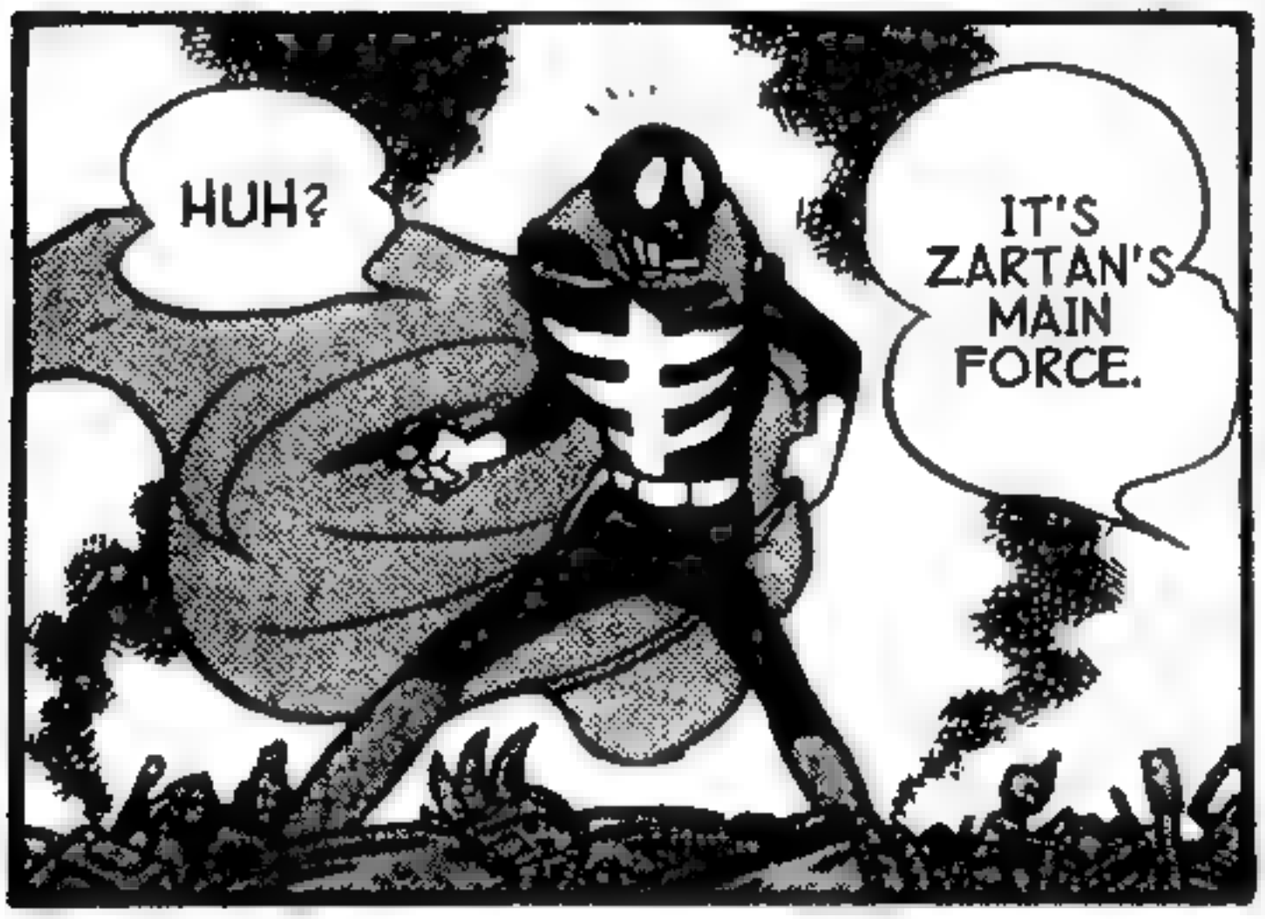
HUH?

IT'S ZARTAN!

YIKES!



LUCKY FOR YOU, 009! WE'LL HAVE TO FINISH THIS LATER.


HUH?
IT'S ZARTAN'S MAIN FORCE.

...ZARTAN!

BZZZZT

BZZZZT

HMM.

OH NO! IT'S ZARTAN. ZARTAN'S APPROACHING!!

HE'S SLIPPIER THAN A GARDEN SNAKE.

IT'S PANDEMONIUM! EVERYONE IS SCRAMBLING AROUND TRYING TO FIND COVER.

SOMETHING WEIRD IS GOING DOWN, GANG!

HURRY, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

LOOK HERE! IT'S 009!

...002, 007...

004...

YOU'RE INSANE, BUT I LOVE YA!

...BUT I SAY WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS MADNESS AND HIT THEIR RANKS.

LET'S GO! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU GUYS...

ZA... ZARTAN IS HEADED STRAIGHT TO BLACK GHOST'S TEMPLE.

FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP

AH!

...AND A BATTALION OF TANKS.

BLACK GHOST IS FIGHTING BACK WITH UNMANNED FIGHTERS...

CLANK

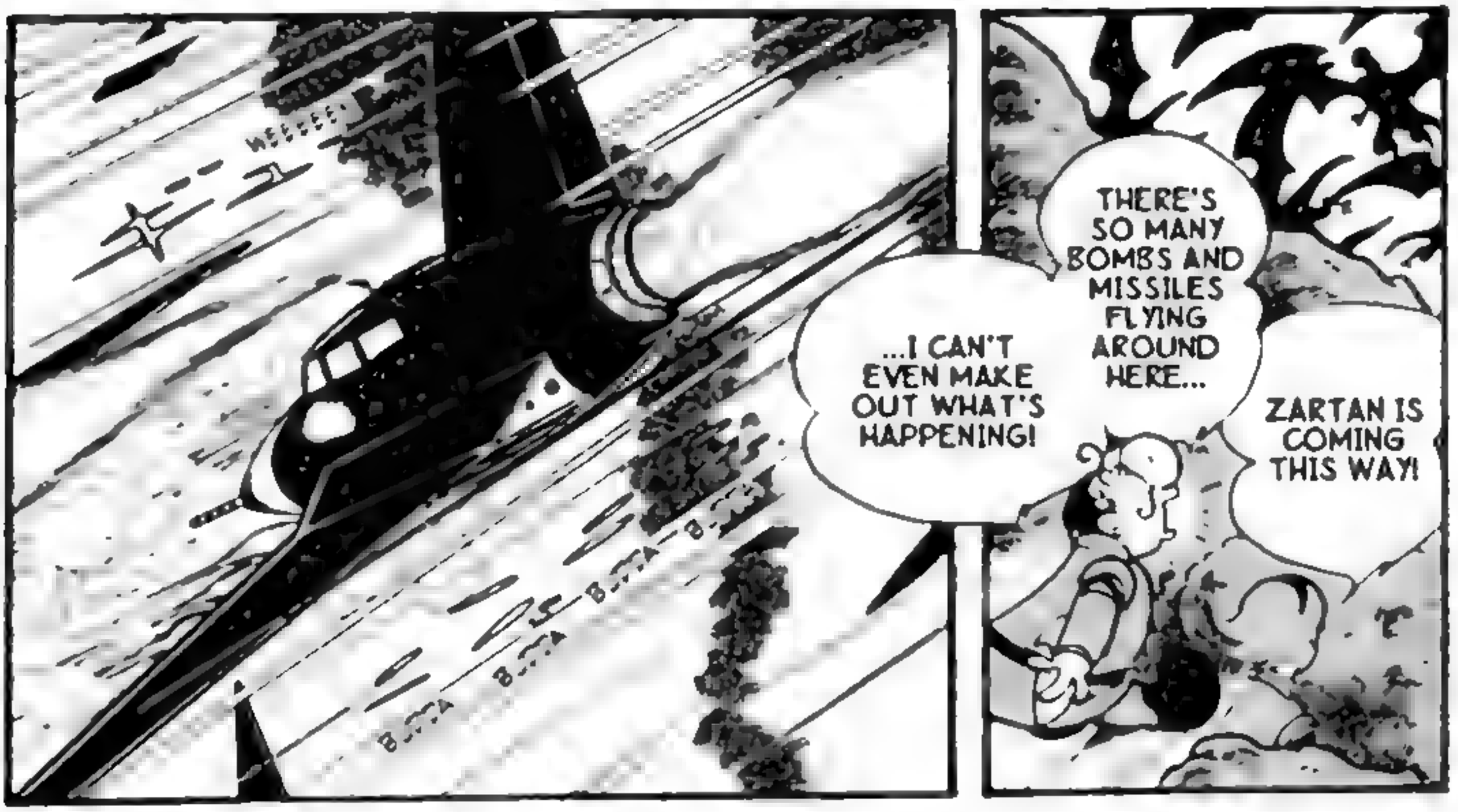
CLANK

CLANK

CLANK

CLANK

FOOOOSH


WEEEEE!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
...I CAN'T EVEN MAKE OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING!
THERE'S SO MANY BOMBS AND MISSILES FLYING AROUND HERE...
ZARTAN IS COMING THIS WAY!

YIKES! DEATH FROM ABOVE!!

AAAH.

FWISSSSSH

THUD

BJOOA BJOOA BJOOA

FWOOOOSH

GEH GEH.

GYAA.

WEEEEEN

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

WEEEEEN

WEEEEEN

HAH! I GET IT! HOW SMART. THE REPTILES LURE THE BATTLE PLANES CLOSE TO THE GROUND AND AT THE LAST MINUTE...

SWOOSH! THEY FLY UP AND AWAY...

KRAKOOOM

...INSTANT DISASTER FOR THE FIGHTER PLANES!

AH.

SKREEE
SKREEE
SKREEE
SKREEE

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

SKREEEEE

THEY'RE UNDER ZARTAN'S POWER!

ULTRA-SONIC WAVE MON-STERS!

WHOOM

WHOOM

THAT'S WHY THERE WAS NO REMOTE CONTROL ON THE OTHER MONSTER WE FOUND. HE WAS UNDER ZARTAN'S POWER!

NOW IT ALL MAKES SENSE!

BUT ZARTAN MANAGED TO HYPNOTIZE THESE BEASTS WHILE HE WAS IMPRISONED.

THE ULTRASONIC WAVE MONSTERS THAT ATTACKED THE SURFACE WERE UNDER BLACK GHOST'S CONTROL...

WHOOOM

...TANKS, PLANES... THEIR FORCES ARE BEING DESTROYED, IN SHAMBLES!

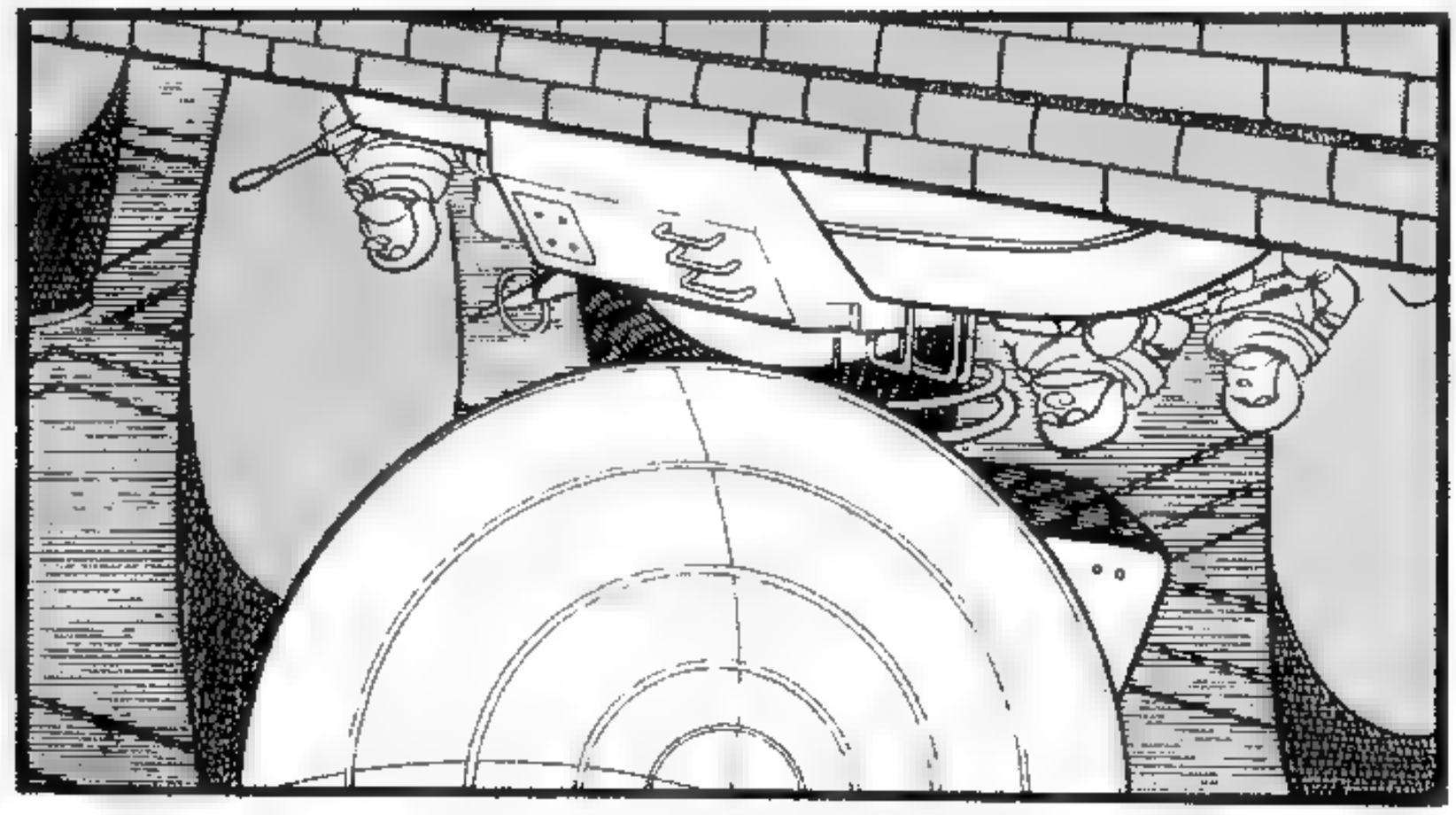
THINGS DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD FOR BLACK GHOST. EVERY MINUTE, THEY'RE LOSING MORE AND MORE...

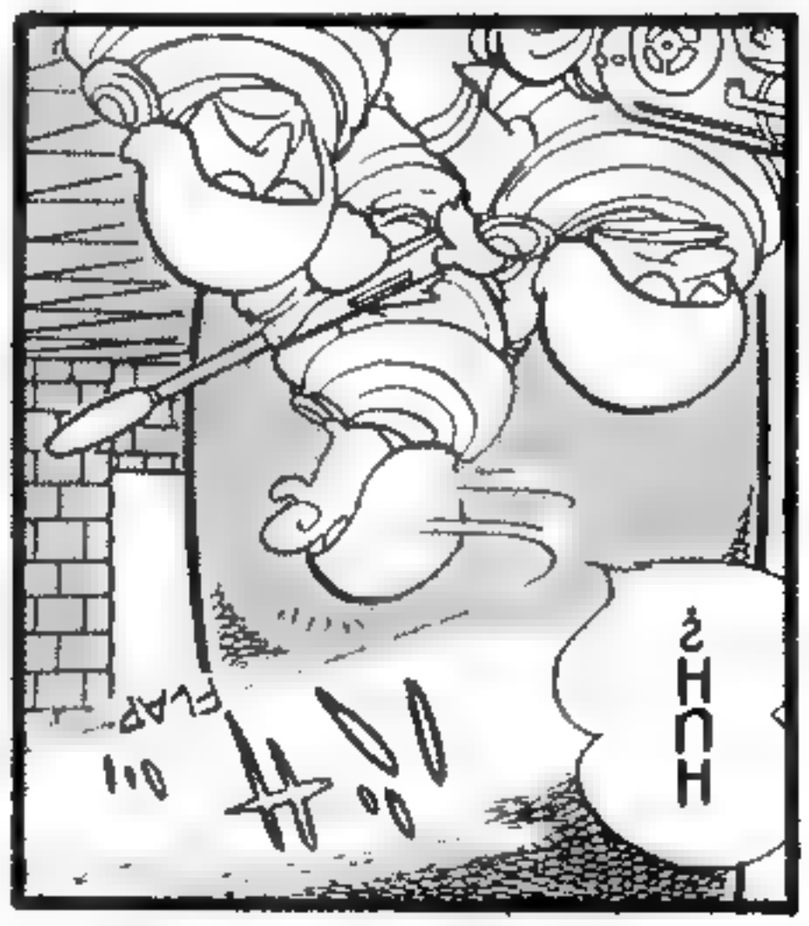
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY BLACK GHOST HASN'T ACTIVATED IT'S ANTI-ULTRASONIC WAVE MACHINES YET.

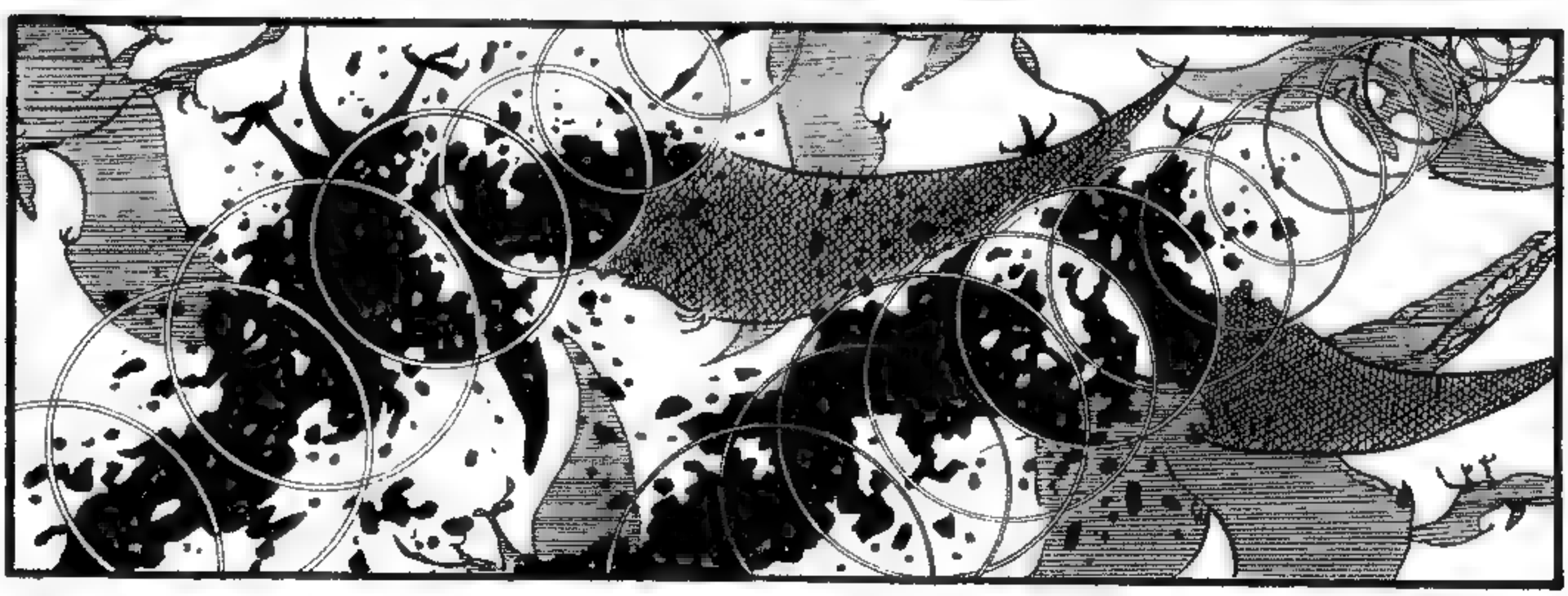
ANTI ULTRA SONIC WAVE MACHINES? THEY HAVE TROUBLE?

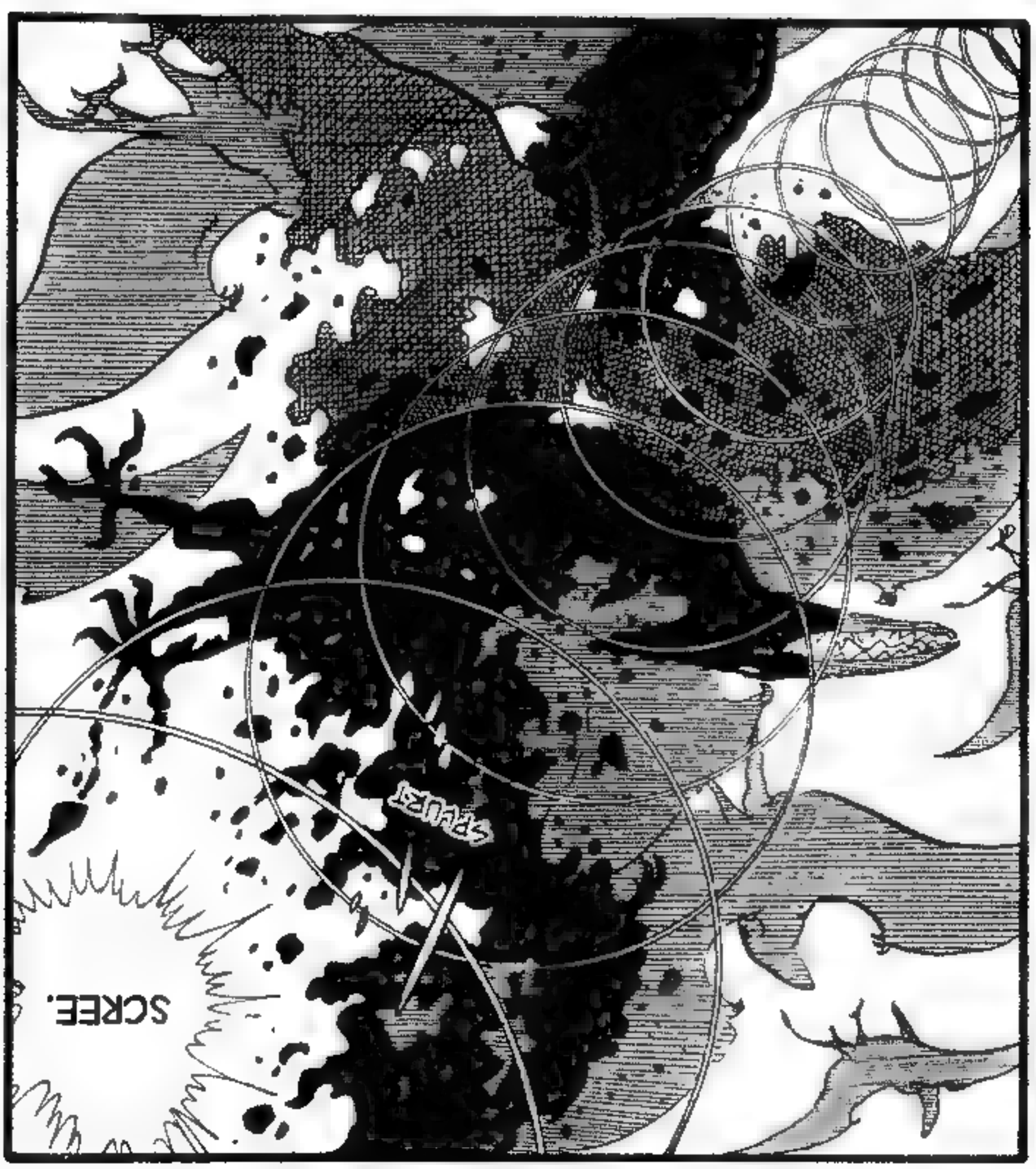
SKREEEE

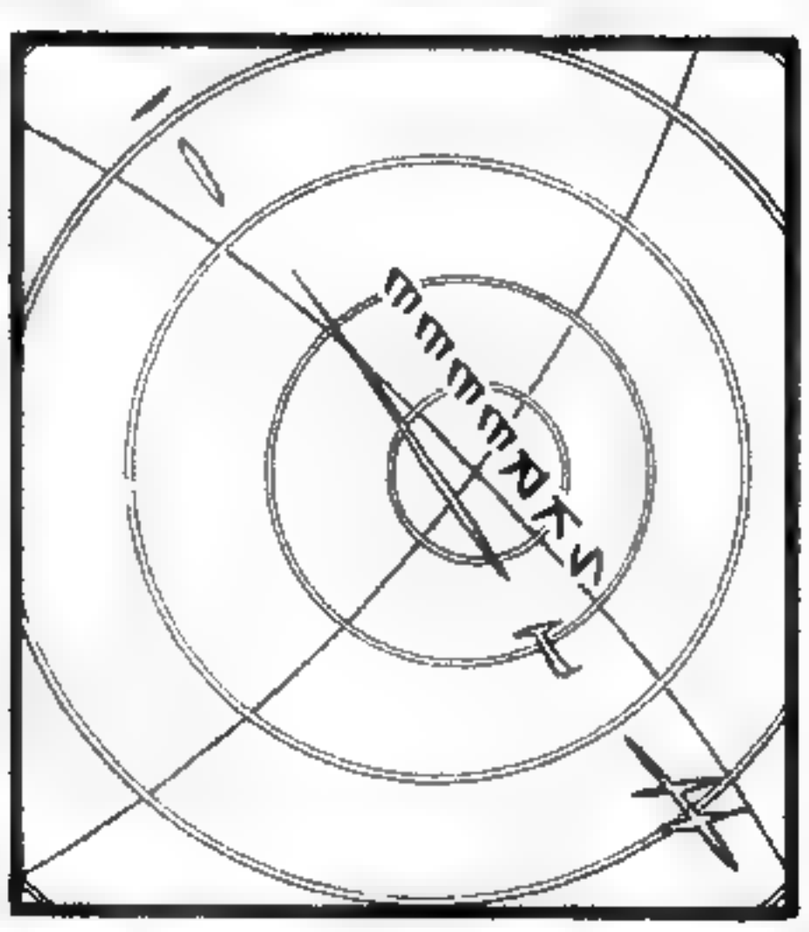
SKREEEEEEE



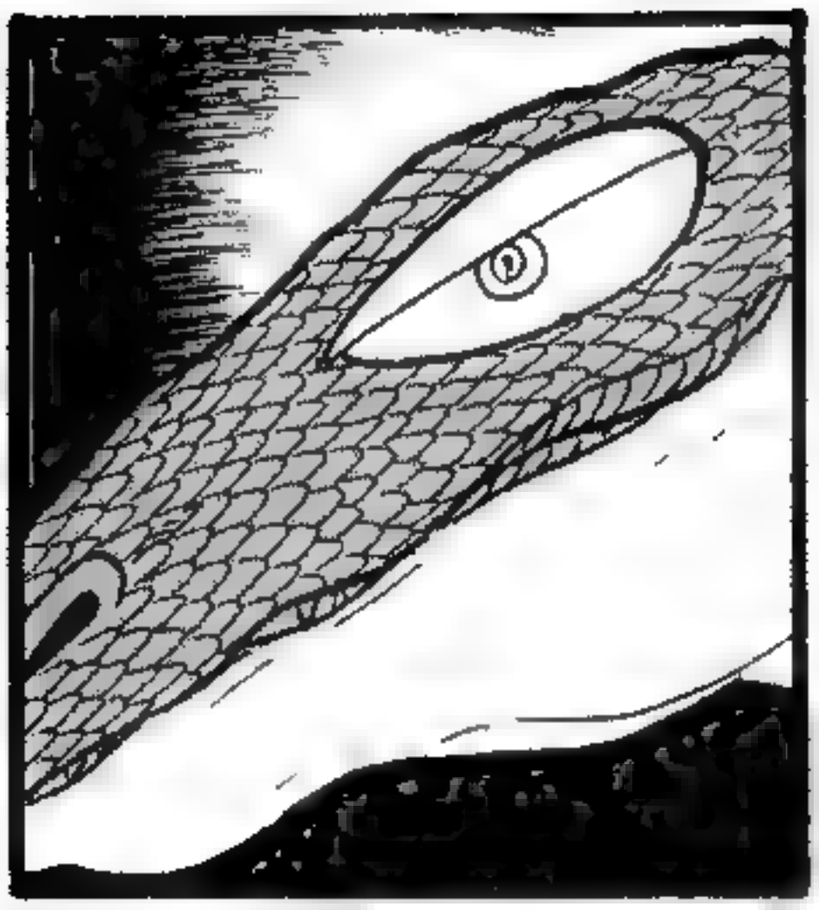

HUH?
FLAP

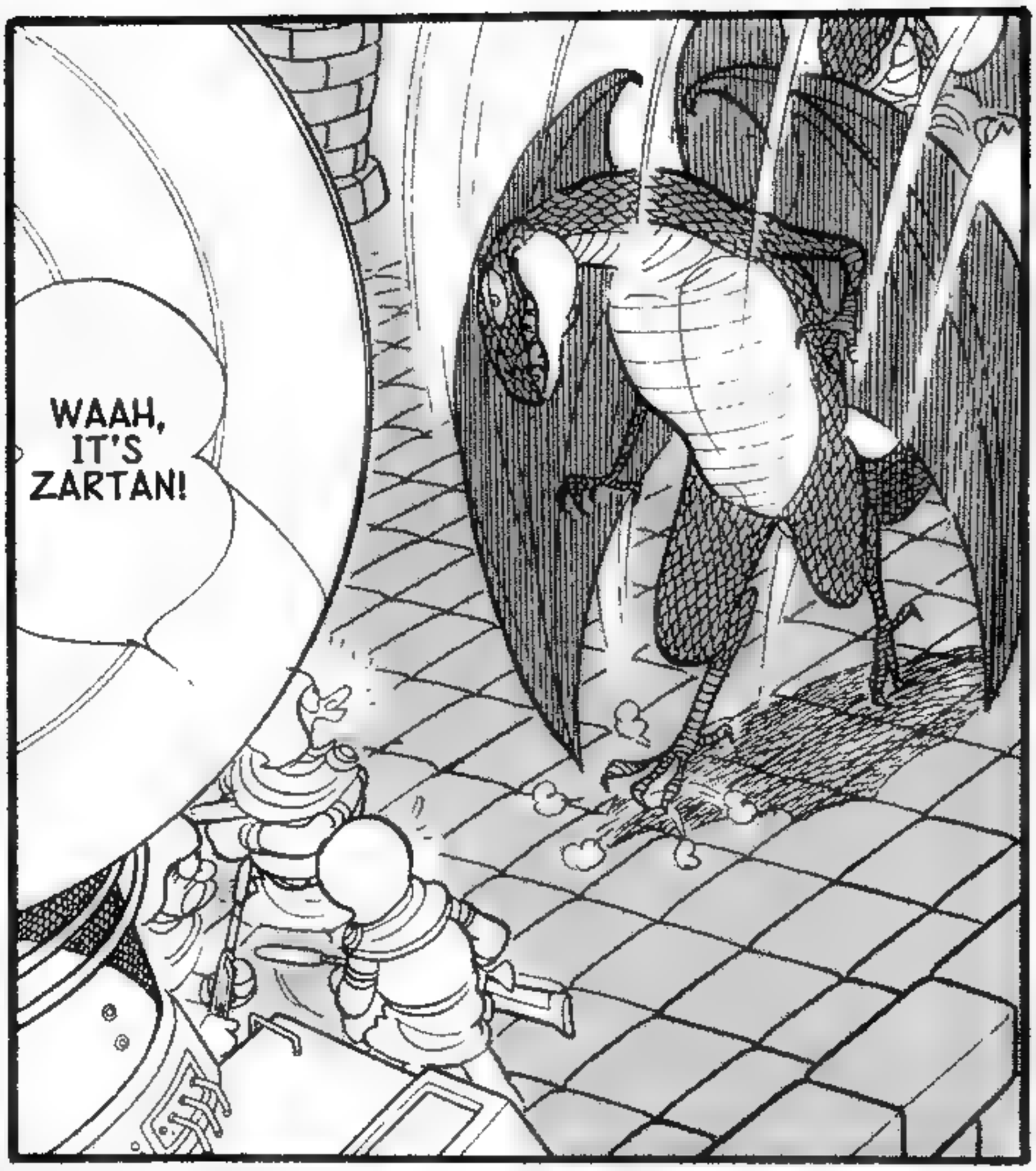



SCREE.
SPLUCH!


mmmmmm

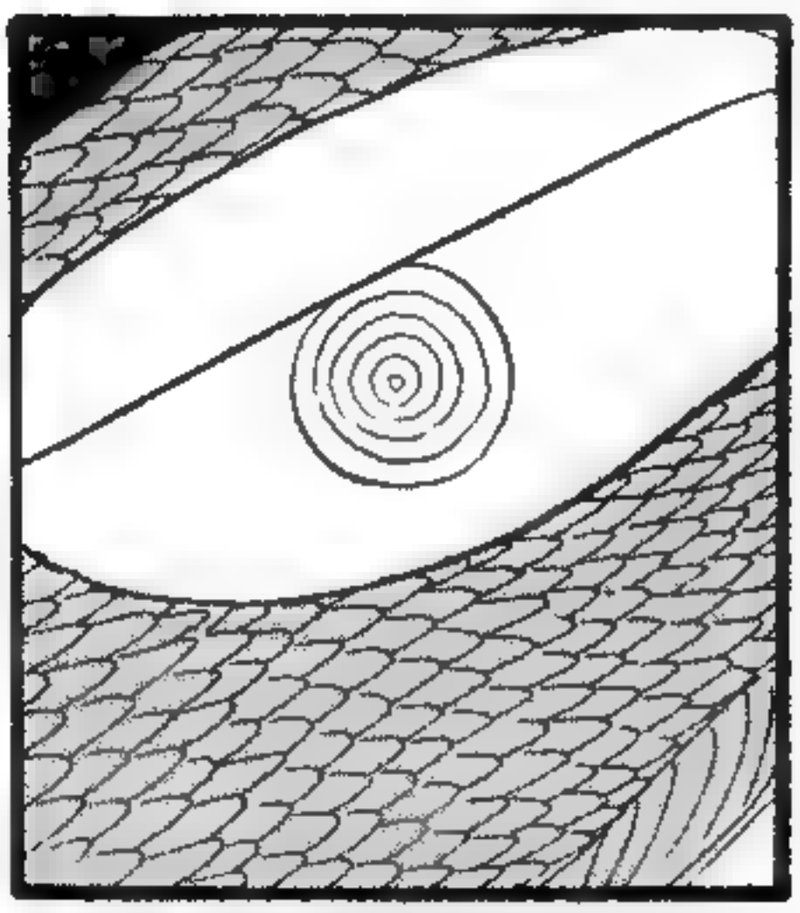
SKREEE

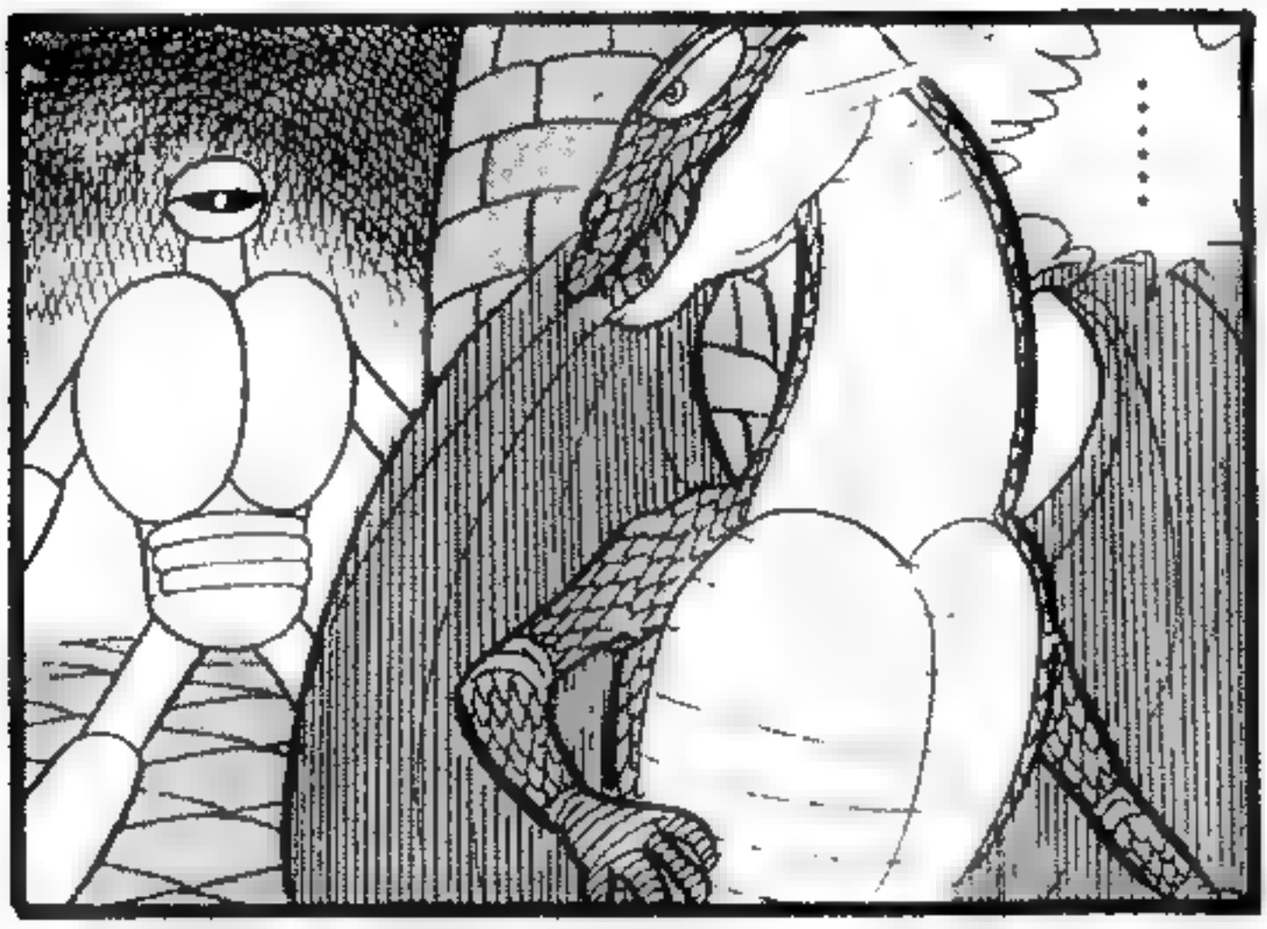



WAAH, IT'S ZARTAN!

...!

GO.
HU HU HU... YOU WORK FOR ME, NOW.
...

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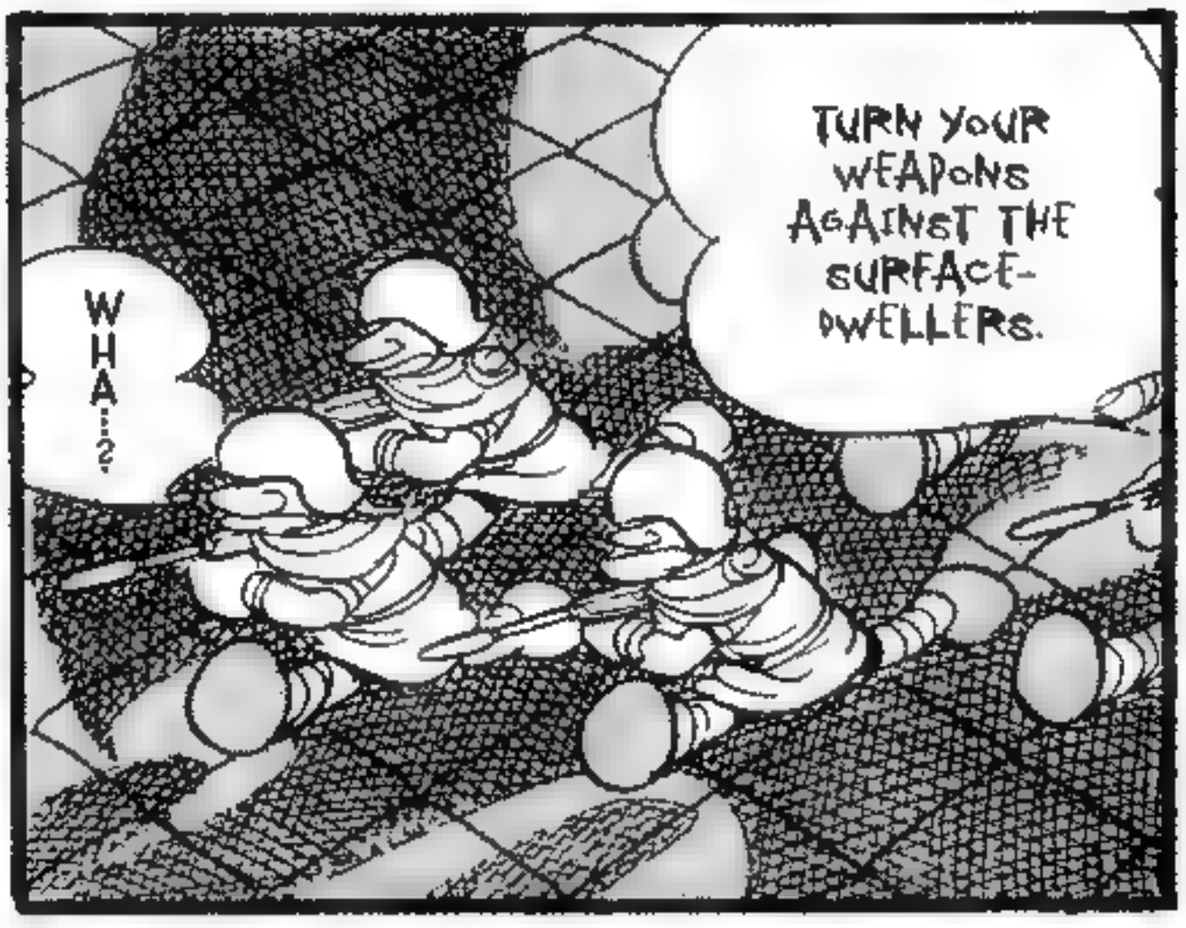

WHA...?
TURN YOUR WEAPONS AGAINST THE SURFACE-DWELLERS.

ZZZZZT

ZZZZZZZZ

ZZZZT

ZZZZT

WHOOOM

BZZZZZZZZZZ

...!

...

WHUMP

CYBORG?

THAT'S RIGHT. HIS BRAIN IS MADE UP OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNDERGROUND EMPIRE.

THIS CYBORG WAS SPECIFICALLY CONSTRUCTED TO STAND UP TO ZARTAN.

THIS IS HOR-RIBLE!

AN ARMY OF SOLDIERS CAN EASILY BE CONTROLLED TO FIGHT AGAINST IT.

DOESN'T MATTER MUCH NOW, DOES IT?

SO, WHILE THE CYBORG HIMSELF CANNOT BE HYPNOTIZED...

KEEP IN MIND--TO THEM, WE'RE THE ENEMY TOO!

THEY WON'T EVEN SEE THIS ONE COMING, ATTACKED BY THEIR OWN SOLDIERS!

BLACK GHOST WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT THEM!

GO.

AH!!

THEY'RE IN THE ROOM WITH THE BIG GOD STATUE... BUT...

VENUS, WHAT ABOUT YOUR SISTERS? WHERE ARE THEY?

IF IT ISN'T THE FAMOUS TRAITOR, DR. GILMORE...

OH, REALLY?

WE FOUND THIS ONE COWERING IN ONE OF THE UNDERGROUND ROOMS.

WHAT IS IT? DR. GILMORE?!

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE CYBORGS COME RUNNING TO SAVE OUR HOSTAGES.

THIS IS BETTER THAN I COULD HAVE HOPED FOR!

THIS IS NOT GOOD...

.....

OH NO!

THE ONLY THING LEFT IS MY PROTECTIVE CLOTHING!

BLIMEY! HE'S GONE!!

FOLLOW ME! HE WAS RIGHT DOWN HERE.

SOUNDS LIKE WE HAVE COMPANY... COMPANY OF THE HYPNOTIZED UNDERGROUND EMPIRE SORT...

EH?

THWOOOM

DADADADA

WHOOOM

ZZZZZ ZZZZZ ZZZZZ

WHOOOM

KAWHOOOM

Bzzzzzzzzzz

KAWHOOOOM

BOOM

SCREEEE

HUH?

CRACK

KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK

BOOM

CLANK

AAH, WHAT'S THAT?

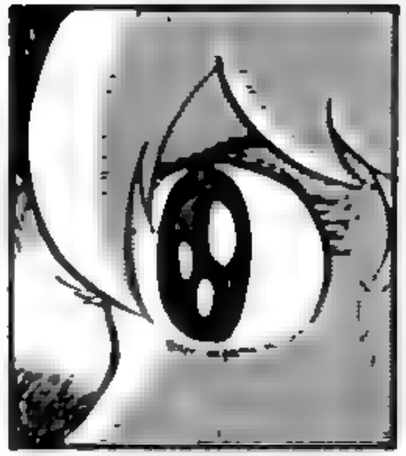
COME ON! WE HAVE FIVE HUNDRED METERS BEFORE WE REACH THE TEMPLE!

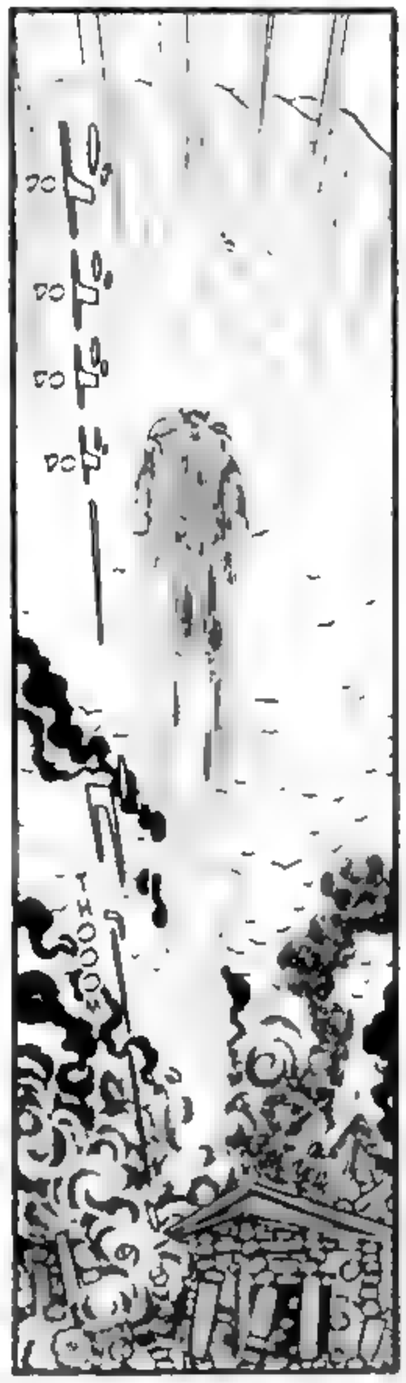
YOU'RE LOOKING STRONG AS EVER, 005.

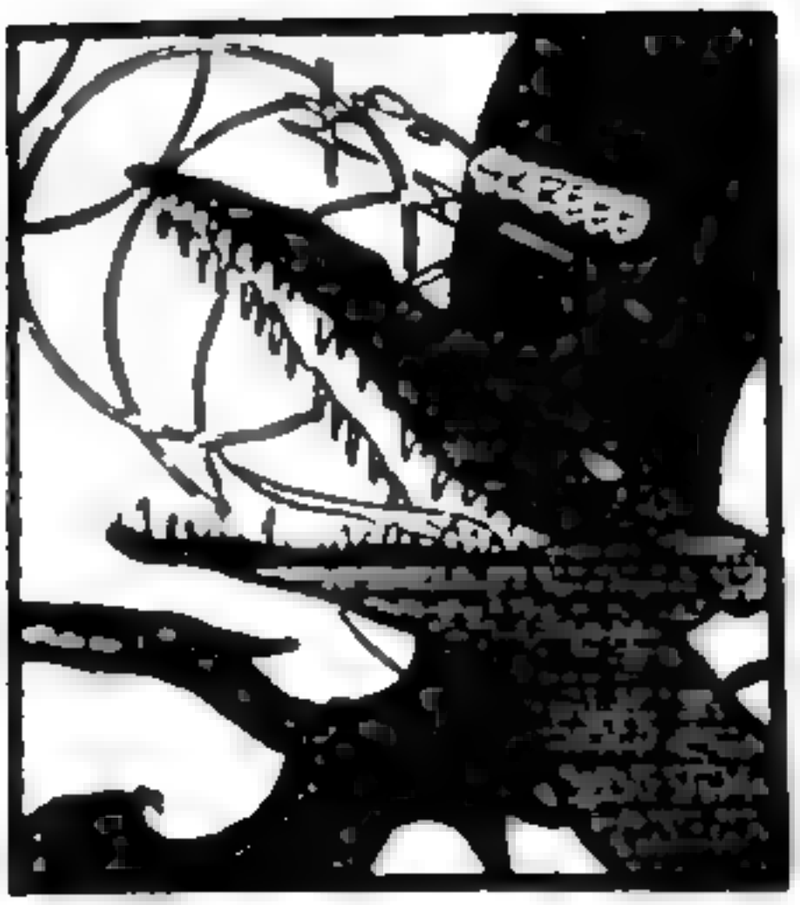
DO

DO

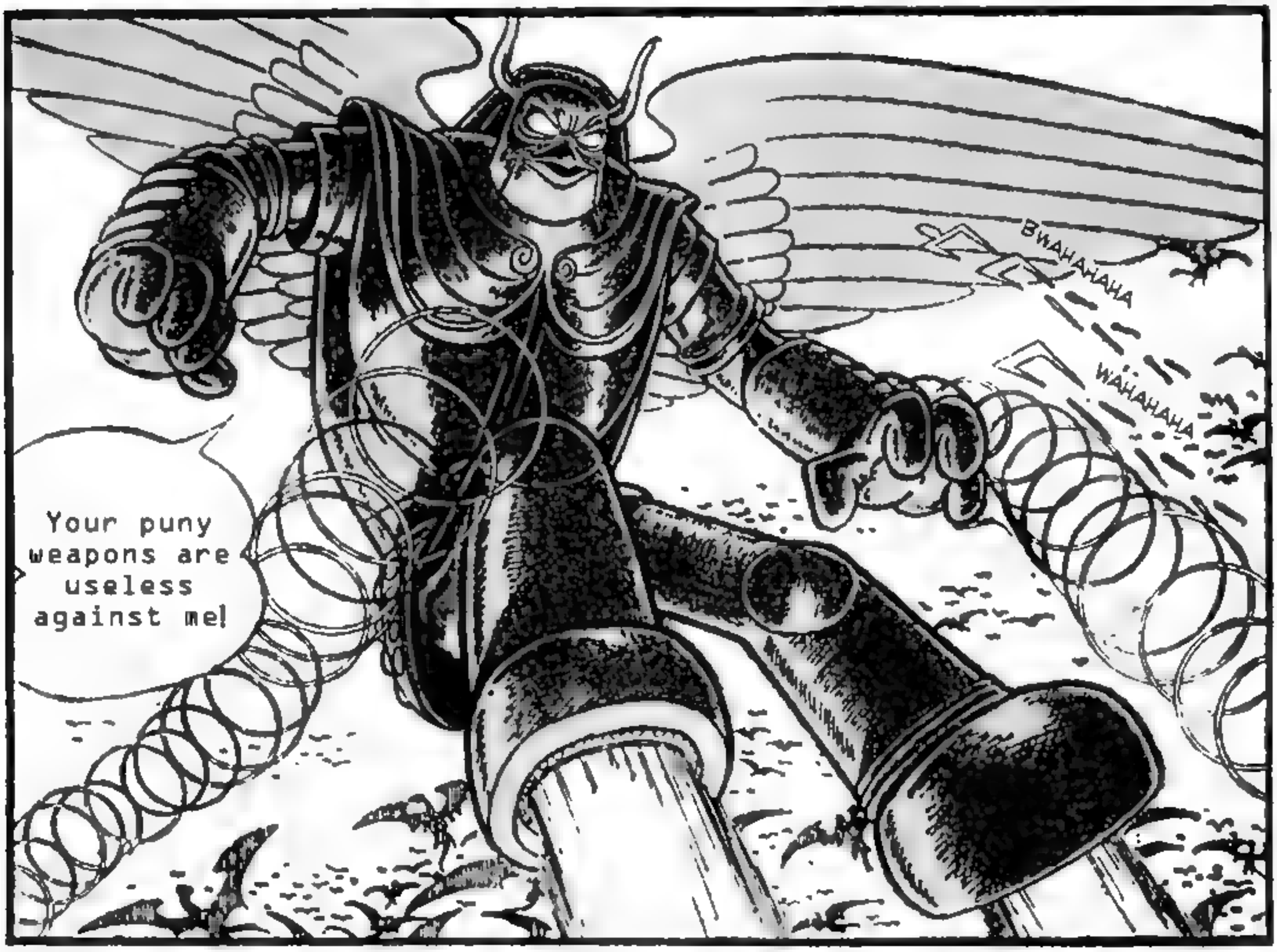
DO



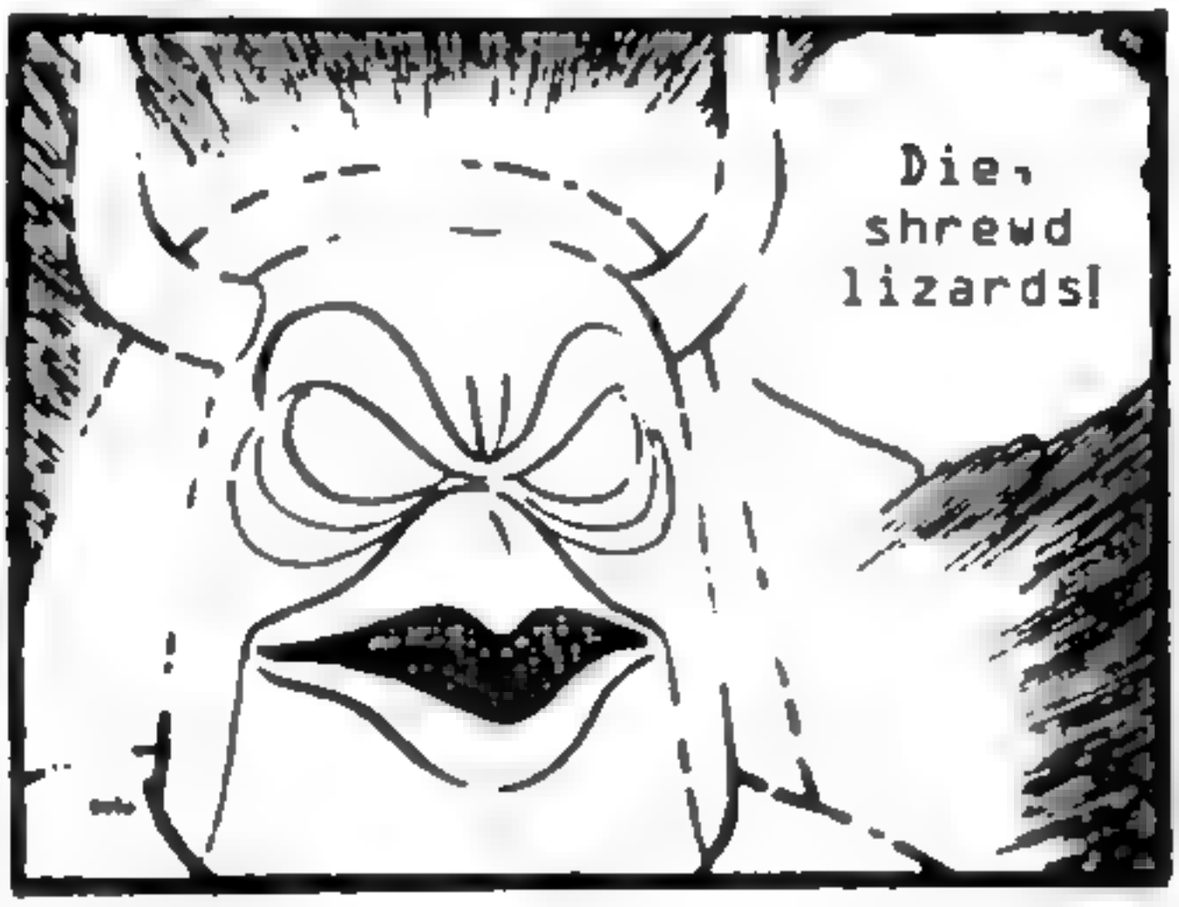


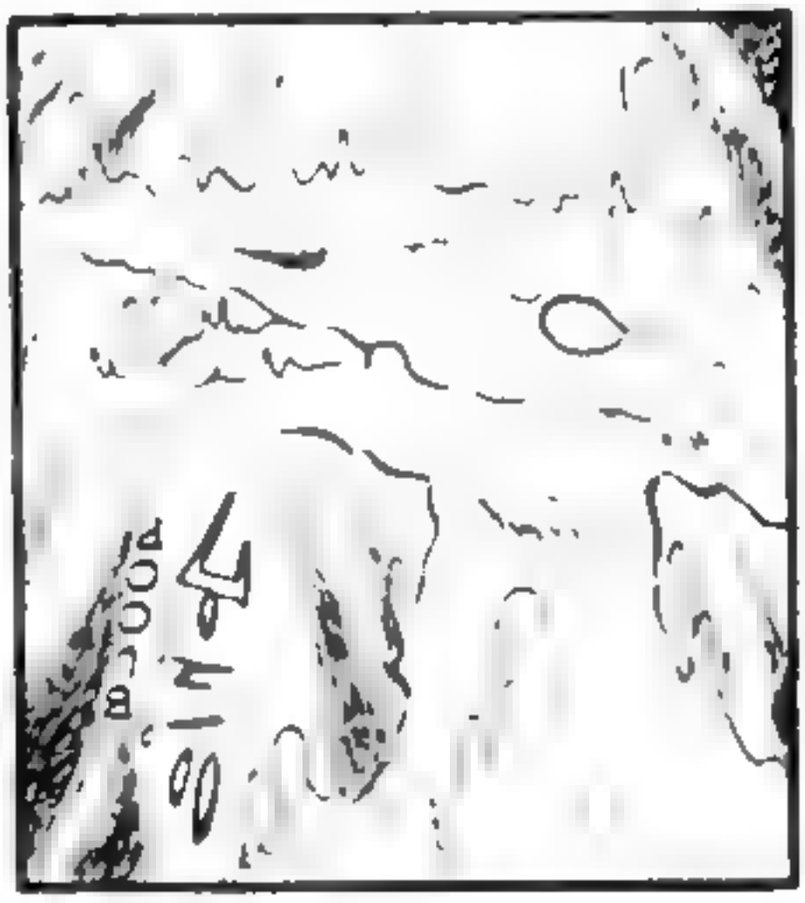


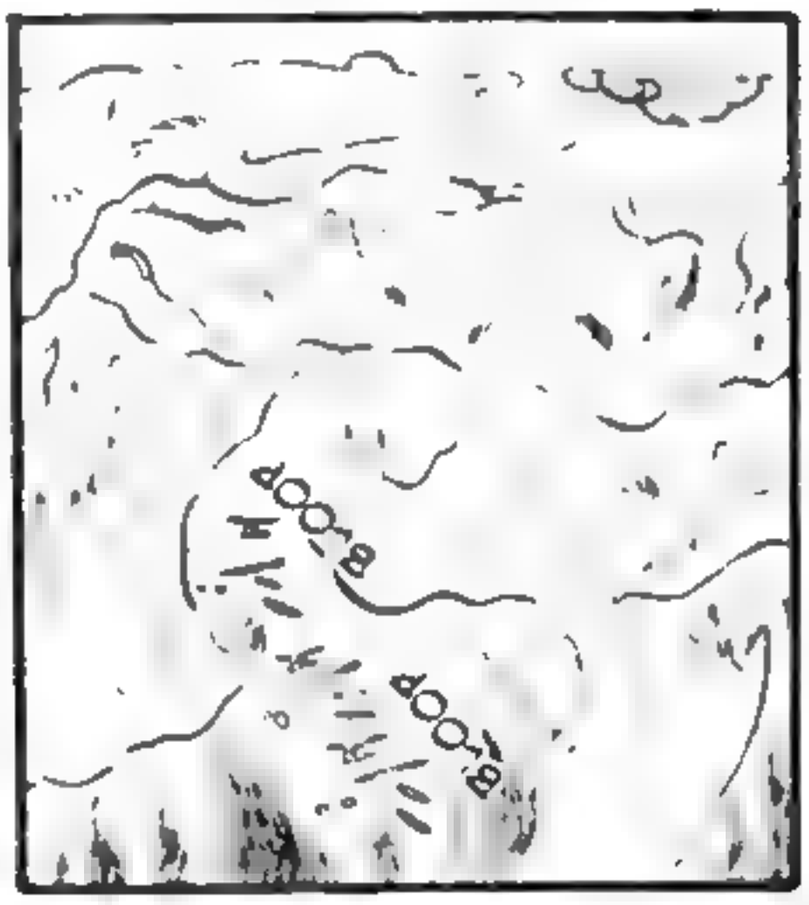
DESTROY THAT DEMONIC STATUE.
KEH KEH. HE'S RUNNING AWAY.


BWAHAHAHA
WAHAHAHA
Your puny weapons are useless against me!

HURRY! PULL BACK!!
GEH.


Die, shrewd lizards!





ドドドドン
ズオオオ

DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

DO
DO
DO

WAHAHAH

THEY'RE FINE.

IT'S OKAY. I CAN SENSE THEM. OVER THERE UNDER THAT BUILDING...

ALL I SEE ARE DEAD BODIES AND MUTILATED BUILDINGS.

HERE! CLIMB UP ON MY BACK!

AH! IT'S SCALD-ING!!

I THINK IT'S ZARTAN AND HIS ARMY... OR THEIR REMAINS AT LEAST.

WOW, WHAT IS ALL OF THIS?

IT'S LIKE AN ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED HERE!

WHAT? YOU DON'T WANT TO?

.....

GUESS I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR HER...

MAYBE SHE'LL LET YOU TOTE HER...

HMM?

HEY.

I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!

NICE TO SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND.

IT'S ABOUT TIME!

HEY.

LOOK WHO'S HERE!

IT'S 009 AND THE OTHERS.

...AS WELL AS HELEN'S YOUNGER SISTERS.

DR. GILMORE IS BEING HELD HOS-TAGE...

AH AH AH AH.

I WISH I COULD SAY THAT, BUT...

NOW THAT THE WHOLE TEAM IS REUNITED, WE'LL BE UNSTOPPABLE!

WHERE IS IT? INSIDE THAT VOLCANO?

THE SAME STATUE THAT MELTED ZARTAN'S ARMY WITH ITS DEADLY HEAT RAY.

THEY'RE BEING HELD INSIDE THAT GIANT STATUE...

WELL, WE SHOULD HURRY UP AND STRIKE WHILE THEY'RE STILL CONFUSED FROM ZARTAN'S ATTACK.

LET'S GET MOVING.

WAIT A MINUTE!

WE HAVE TO RESCUE DOC AND THE GIRLS FIRST.

I'M GOING TO DO SOME RECON-NAISSANCE FIRST.

ACTUALLY, IT'S PROBABLY SOME SORT OF CYBORG, FUNCTIONING WITH BLACK GHOST'S INSIDIOUS BRAIN!

THAT'S NO STATUE. THAT'S A ROBOT!

HMM, DAMN.

THEY'LL SHOOT YOU DOWN IN TWO SECONDS!

YOU CAN'T JUST GO FLYING AROUND OUT THERE! YOU WANT THEM TO SPOT US?

THUD

WAIT, WAIT.

FLAP FLAP FLAP

WHY, YOU'D HAVE TO BE A HEARTLESS MURDERER TO SHOOT DOWN A CUTE BIRD!

NO ONE WILL EVER SHOOT A BIRD

HEHE, HOW ABOUT THIS?

FLOOP

IF IT IS SPY ACTION YOU NEED, LET 007 TAKE CARE OF IT.

I CAN SEE THE DEMON STATUE ALL THE WAY FROM HERE.

FLAP

NO NEED TO PUT YOURSELF AT RISK, 007

OKAY, HERE WE GO.

FLAP

FLAP

IT'S LOCATED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE VOLCANO. IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE MOVING.

IT'S SURROUNDED BY VAN BOGART AND HIS ROBOT ARMY.

.. AND THERE'S THE DOCTOR!

HMM.

WHO ARE YOU CALLING OLD? YOU'RE NOT SO YOUNG YOURSELF.

I'LL TRADE YOU ONE OLD MAN IN EXCHANGE FOR HELEN AND VENUS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I'VE COME WITH AN OFFER.

BE CAREFUL, YOU DODDERING FOOL. YOU'RE NO GOOD TO ME DEAD.

WONK

...

FORGET ABOUT ME! DON'T MAKE ANY DEALS WITH THIS MADMAN!

WE CAN'T GIVE IN TO HIS DEMANDS, JOE.

HMM.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? THOSE GIRLS ARE NO GOOD TO YOU.

ALL RIGHT!

...GOING!

WE'RE...

YOU KNOW WHERE I STAND! YOUR ANSWER?

STOMP STOMP

CHOP

DON'T GO!

WAIT!

GUHHH...

HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS OLD MAN'S LIFE?

ALRIGHT, BOGART! THEY'RE ON THE WAY. WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THEM?

VENUS!

I JUST WANTED MY PRECIOUS SERVANTS BACK.

BOOT

NOTHING MUCH.

...

I... I WON'T LET YOU LIVE IN SLAVERY! I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU. I PROMISE!

VENUS!

IT'S YOUR CYBORGS THAT ARE BRAVE, DOCTOR.

NO.

YOU GIRLS ARE SO BRAVE. SACRIFICING YOURSELVES FOR ME...

YOU TRAITOROUS VERMIN!

AAAHHH.

HU HU HU, WELCOME BACK.

HERE IS YOUR RECEPTION!

YOU VICIOUS BASTARD!

D-DAMMIT.

009, YOU COMPASSIONATE IMBECILE!

EXCELLENT! FLY RIGHT INTO MY CLUTCHES...

.....

UNNHH...

BZZT

ZE... ZERO ZERO... NINE.

VENUS!

I-I'M GOING TO KILL THAT BASTARD.

FWOOOOSH

009!

WHERE ARE YOU, 009?!

FWOOOOSH

VENUS, VENUS.

.....

009!

FWOOOSH

FWOOOOSH

FWOOOSH

CHAK

WHIZZZZZ

FWOOOOOSH

FLASH

BZZZT

BZZZT

FWISH

FWISH

BZ-Z-ZZT

BZ-Z-ZZT

...

FWOOOSH

MAYBE IF I CLOSE MY EYES...

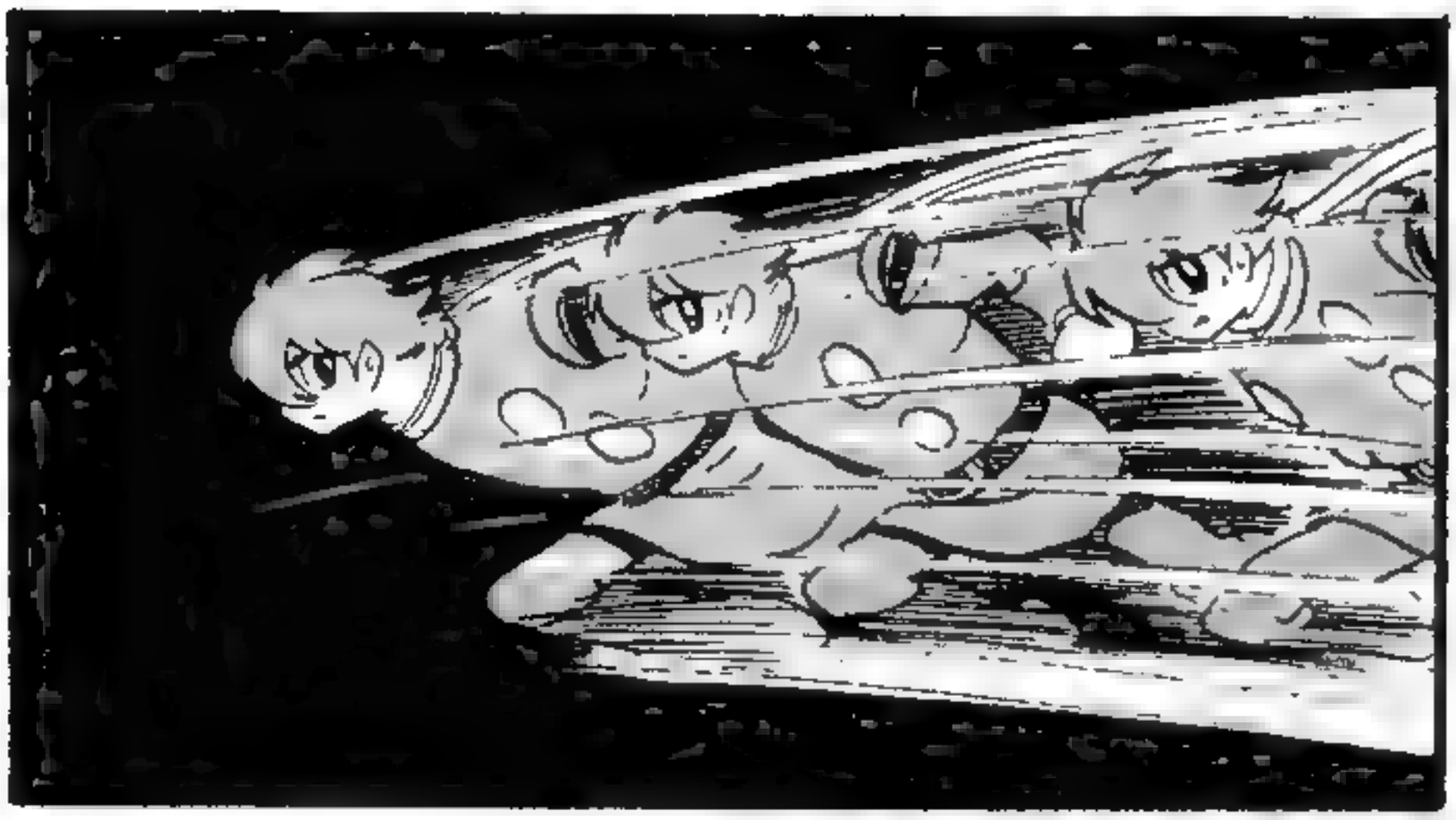
I SHOULD STAY OUT OF THE WAY!

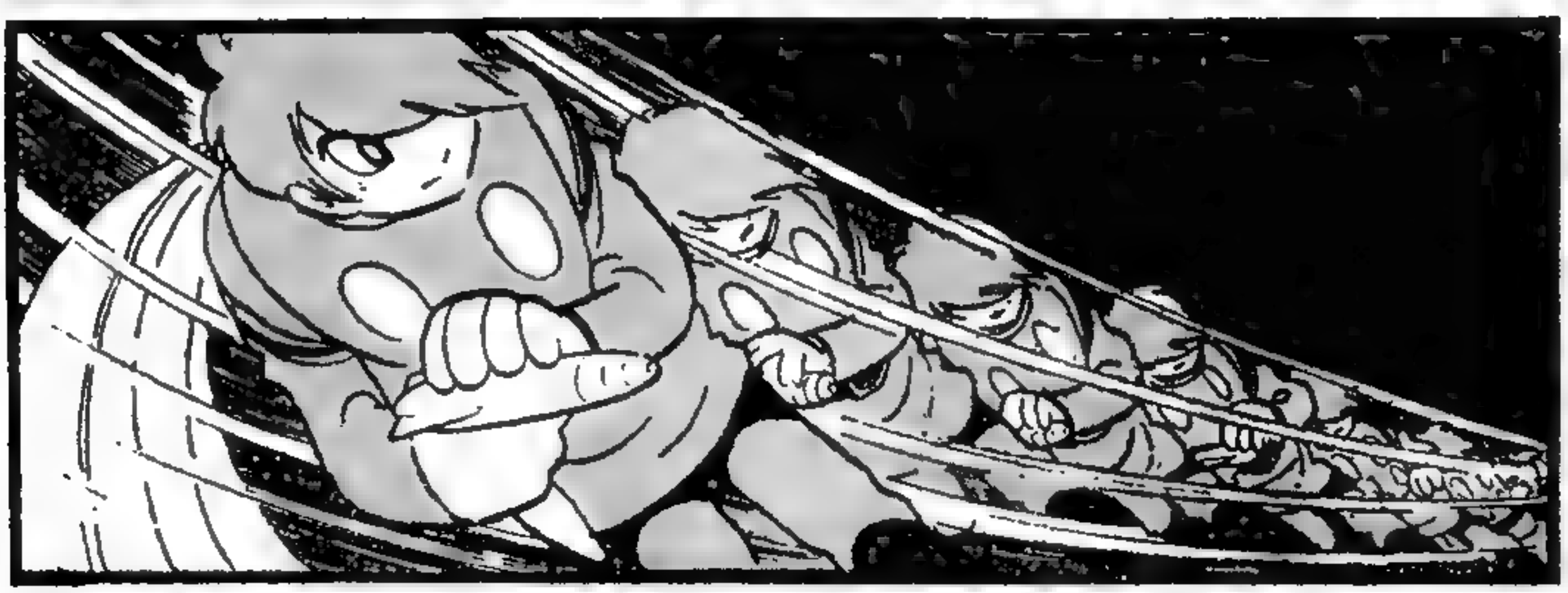
GR... RRRR.

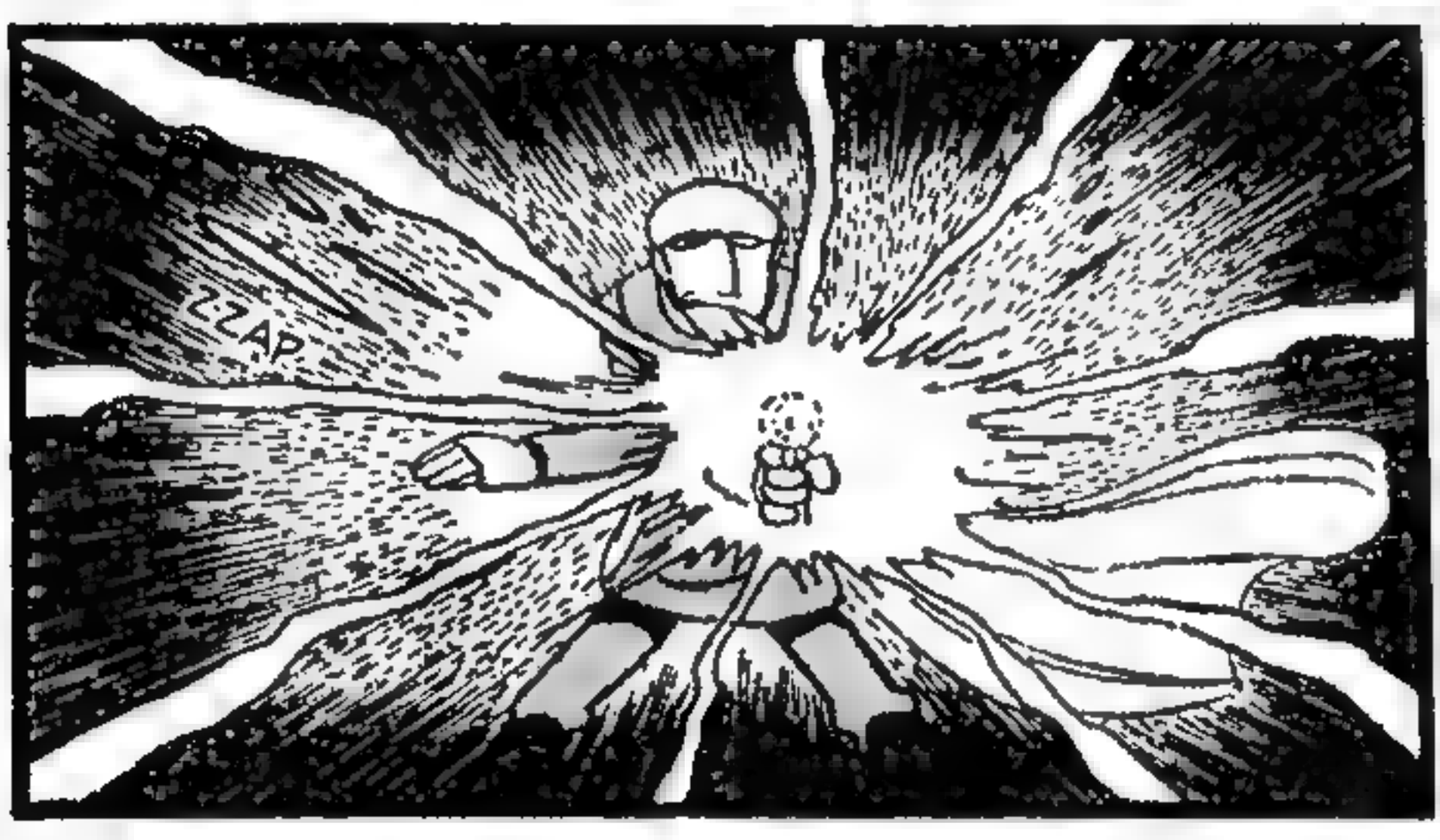
FWOOOOOSH

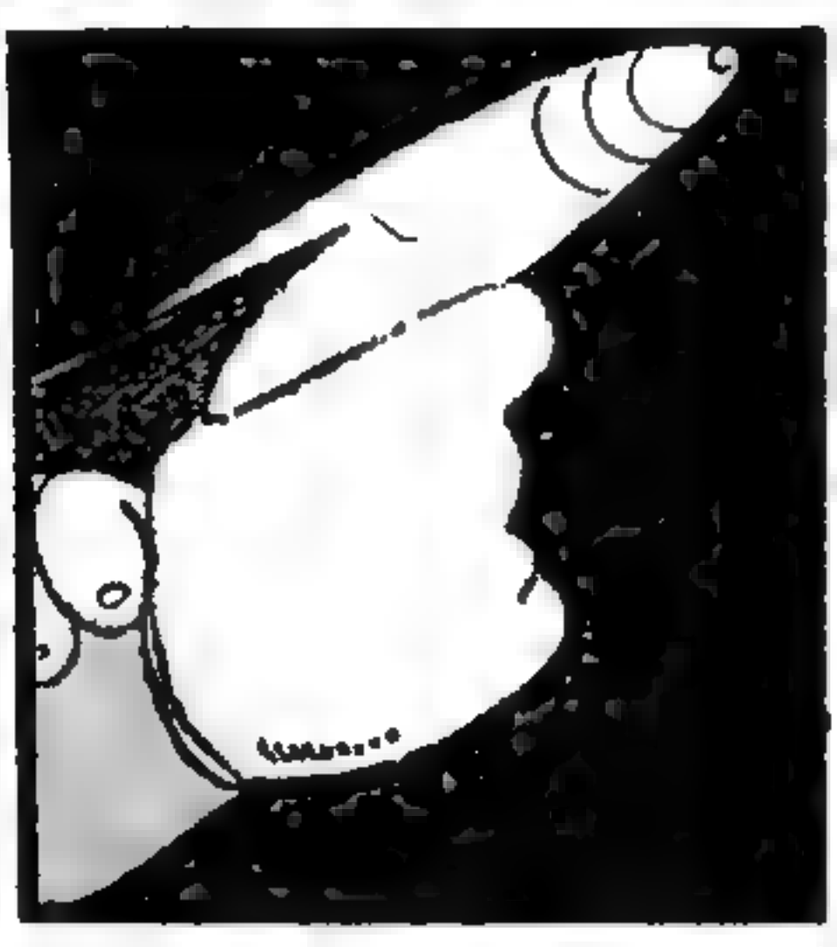
FWOOOOOSH

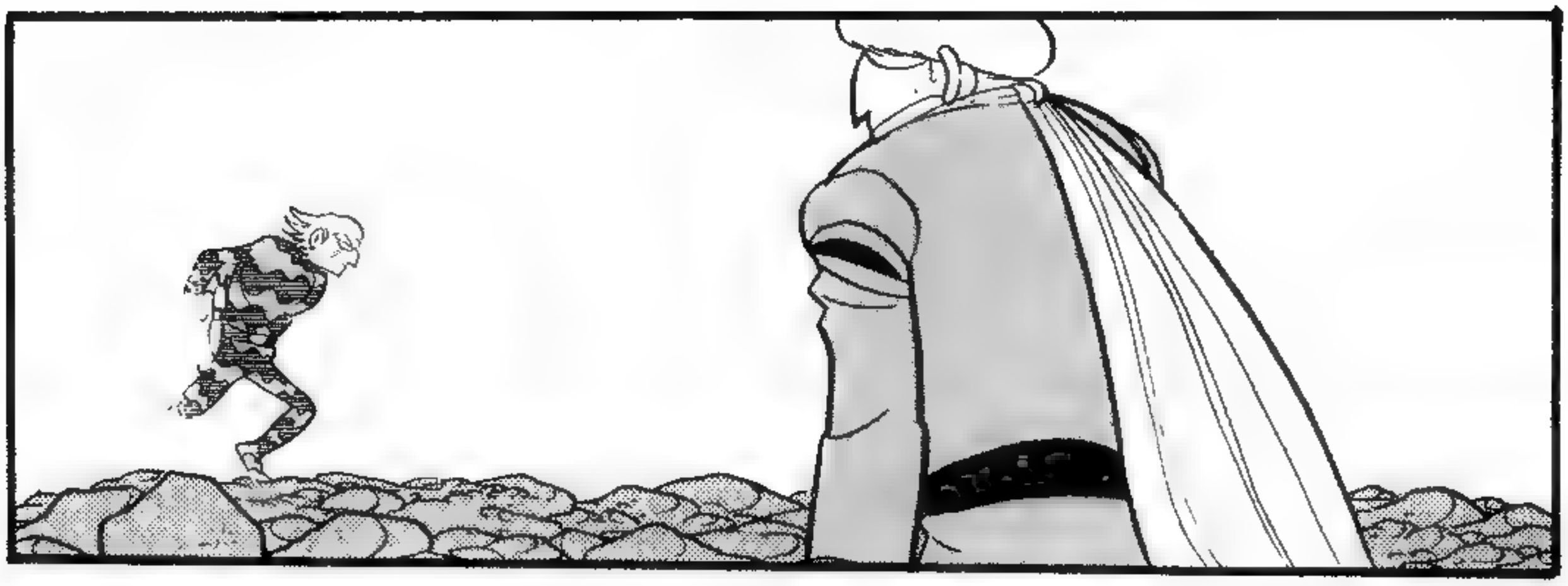
FWOOOOOSH






ZZAP





GOOD WORK! YOU SAVED ME.

...

...004!

ONCE I FIGURED THAT OUT, I KNEW WHICH ONE OF YOU TO BLAST.

I HEARD YOU. LUCKILY, I WAS ABLE TO DISCERN THE SOUND OF YOUR RUNNING FROM VAN BOGART'S.

THE SOUND.

I DIDN'T HAVE TO SEE YOU.

WE WERE ACCELERATED. HOW COULD YOU SEE US?

BUT, I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

HE'S GOT BETTER SENSES AND AIM THAN EVEN THE MOST HIGHLY TRAINED KILLER.

LUCKILY, 004 IS CYBER-NETICALLY ENHANCED...

YOU SIMPLY AIMED AT THE UNFAMILIAR FOOTSTEPS.

I SEE, YOU'RE RIGHT!... EXCELLENT!

HELEN

LET'S FINISH THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL! BLACK GHOST HAS CAUSED ENOUGH SUFFERING!
THIS WAY, EVERYBODY!
THIS ISN'T OVER YET!

.....

YEAHHH!

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

EHH.

OOO... YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.

FWUMP

FOOO

AH, WHAT... ?!

WITH OUR OWN HANDS... THE HANDS BLACK GHOST CREATED... WE WILL BRING PEACE TO THE UNDERGROUND EMPIRE... AS WELL AS THE SURFACE WORLD!

HELEN...

...REST IN PEACE.

...VENUS...

I SWEAR THAT YOUR DEATHS WERE NOT IN VAIN.

WEEEEN

WATCH OUT!

SHUUU

WEEEEEN

FWISH

FOOO

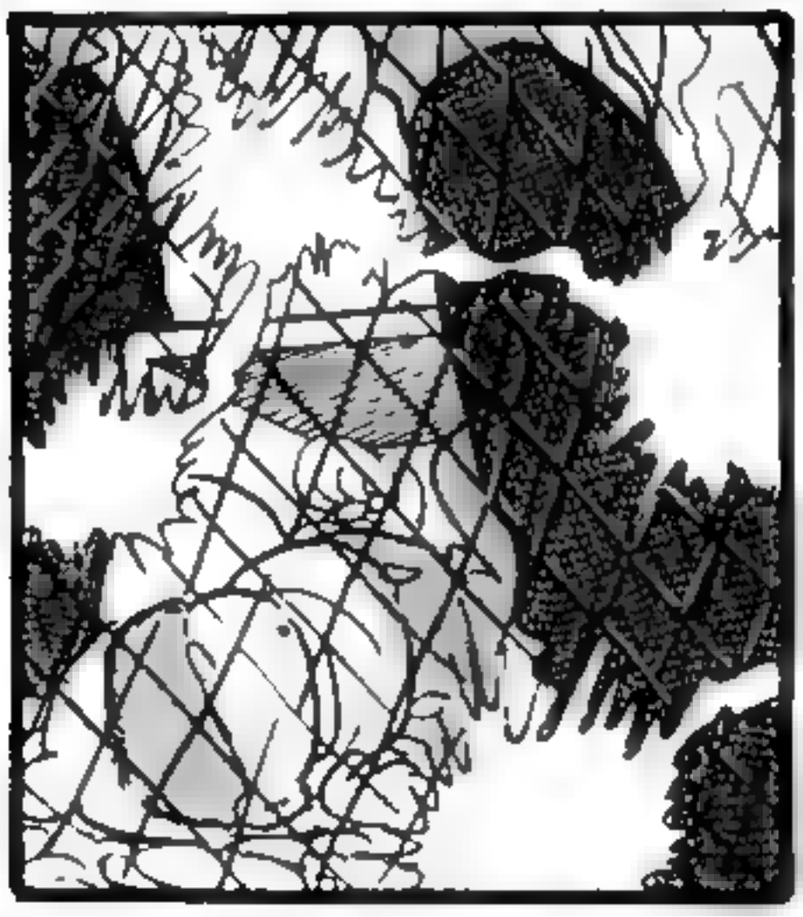
WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT.

FSSST

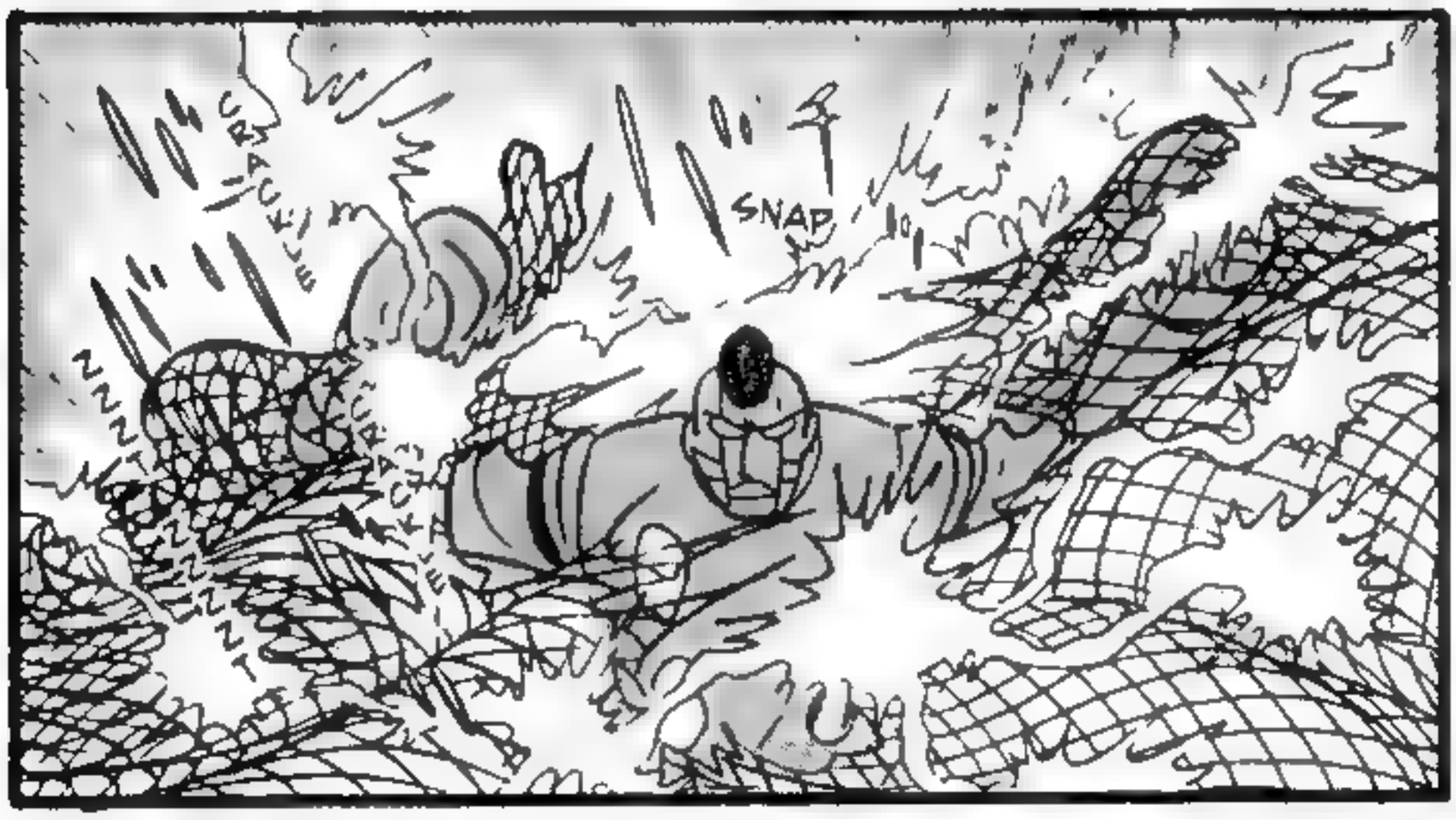
UGH.

ELSUR

FWAP

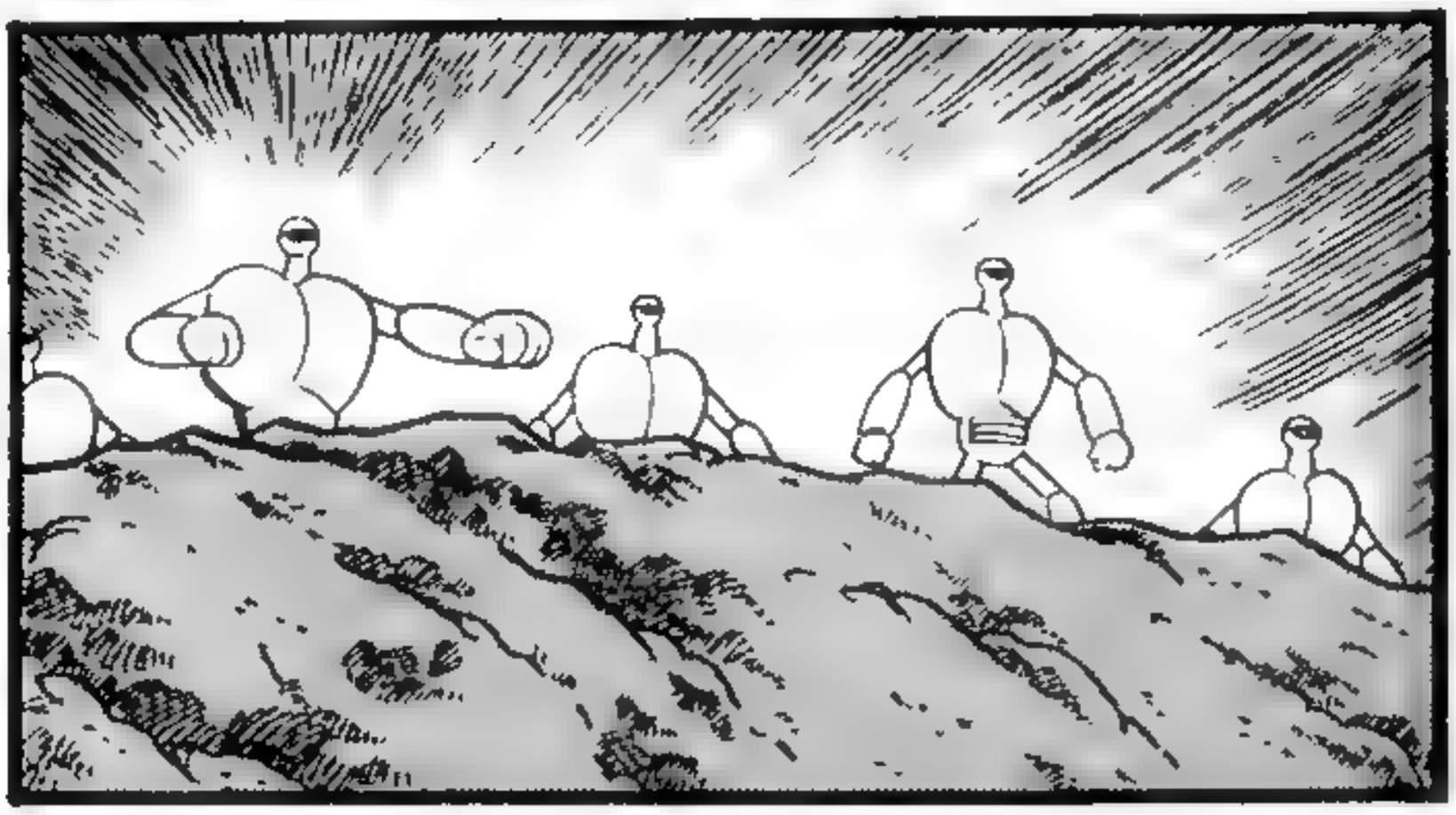


CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
ZZZZZ
ZZZZZ


SNAP
NNNT
NNNT
NNNT

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN TRANSFORM INTO TO GET US OUT OF THIS SITUATION?

0091 BEHIND YOU!



DAMN!

zzzzz

zzzzz

BASTARD!

WOOM

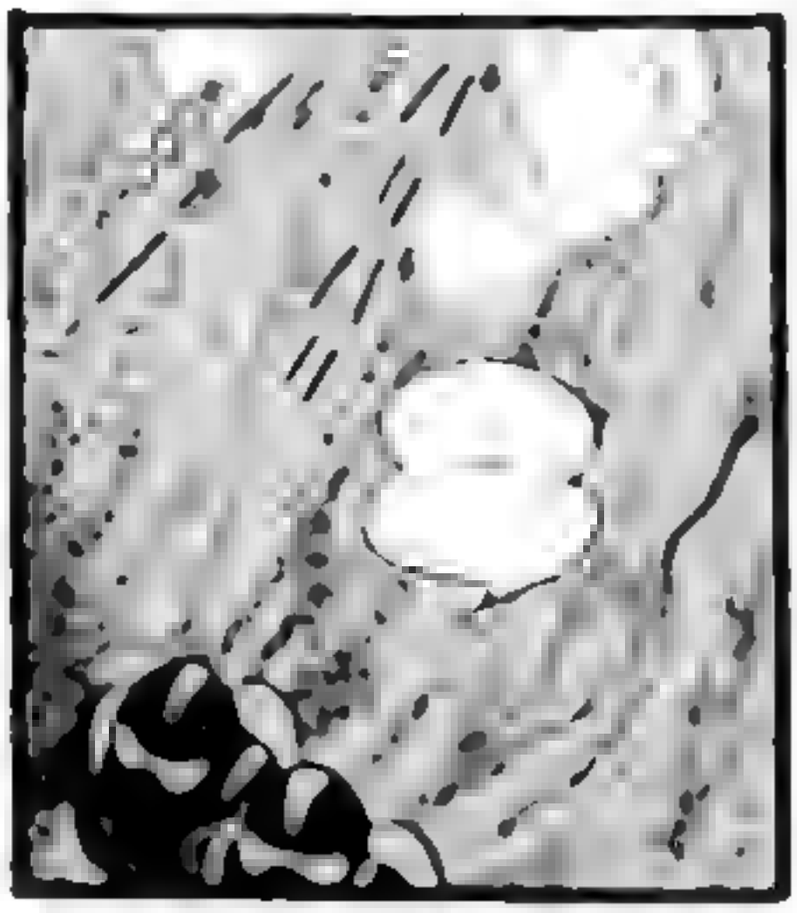
WEEEN

WEEEN

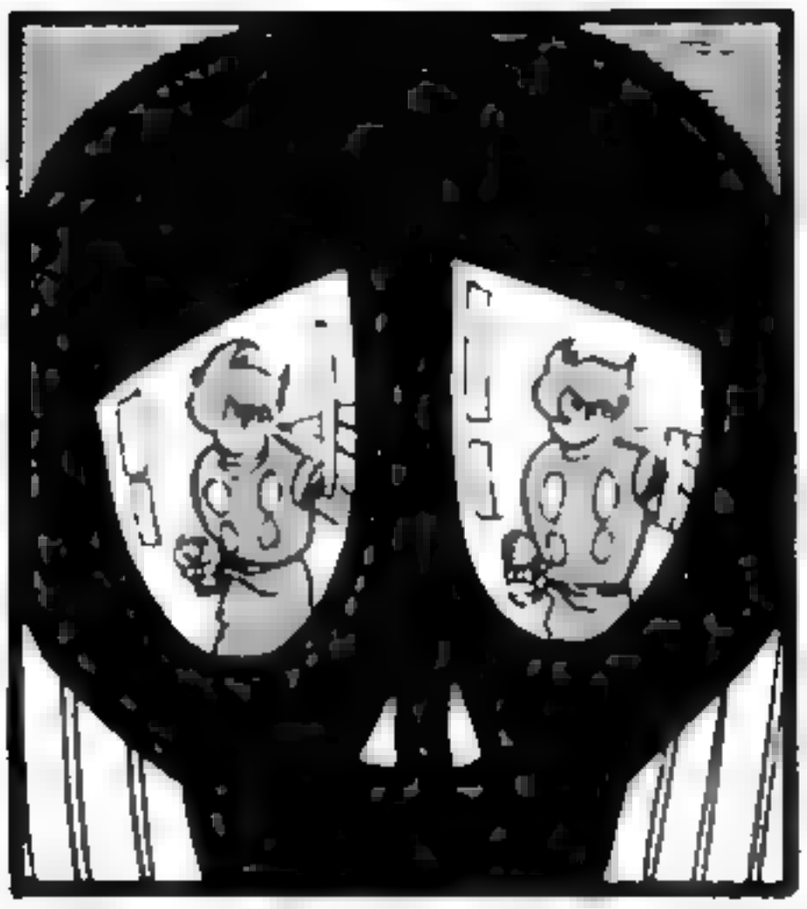
WE SHOULD BE SAFE DOWN HERE, DOCTOR. KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN.

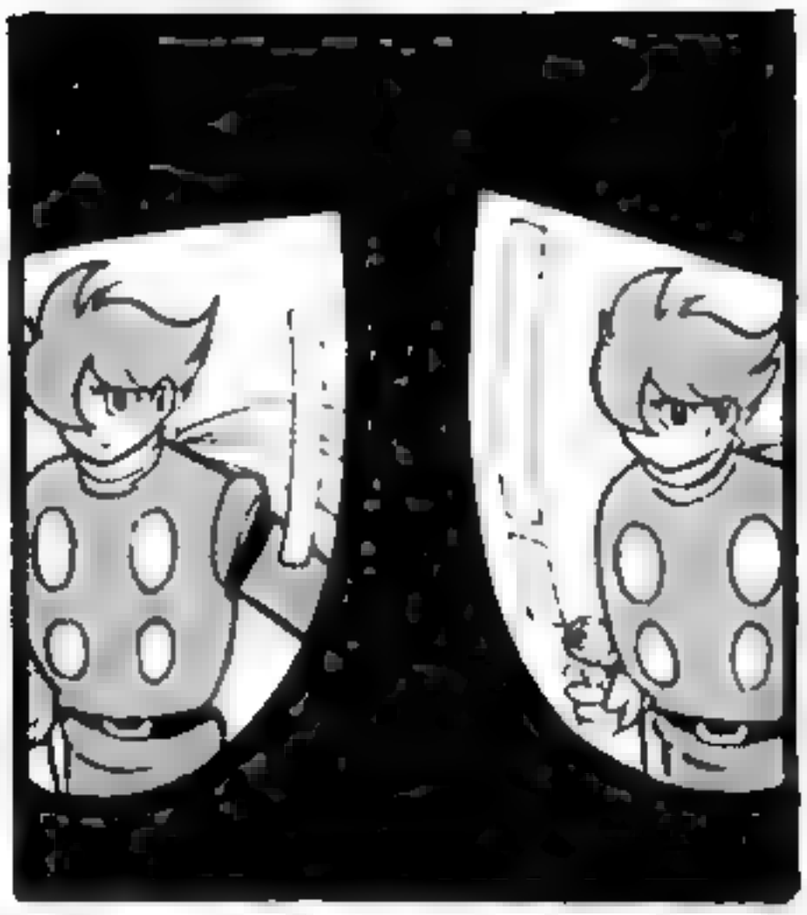
AH.

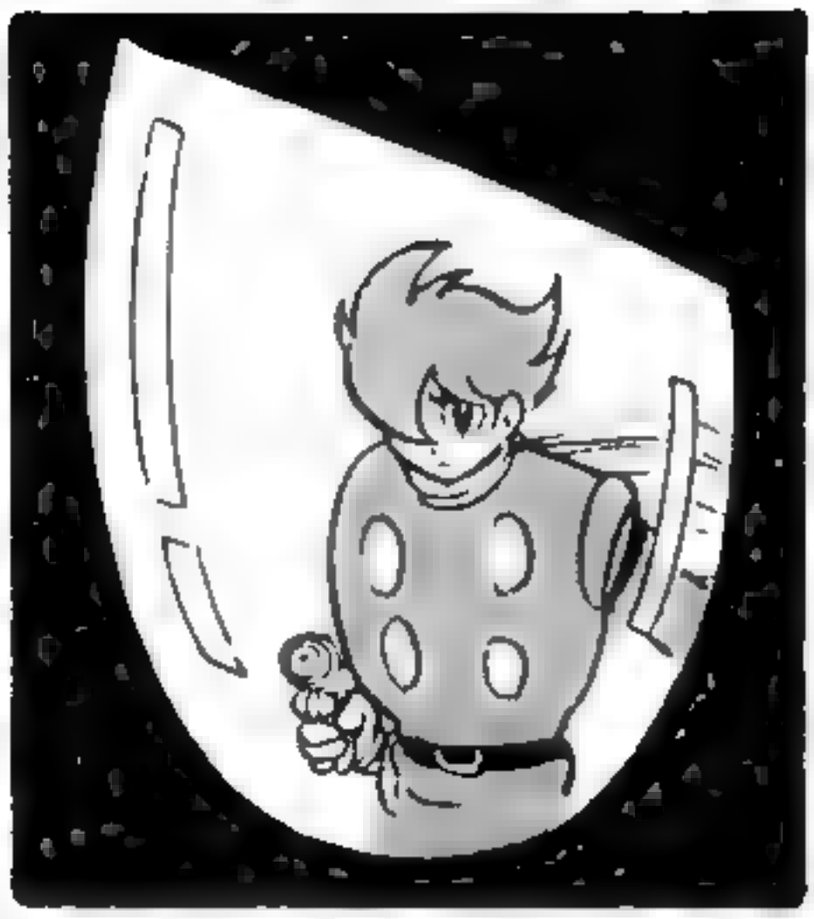
FINALLY! WE MEET FACE TO FACE!



... THAT'S IT!

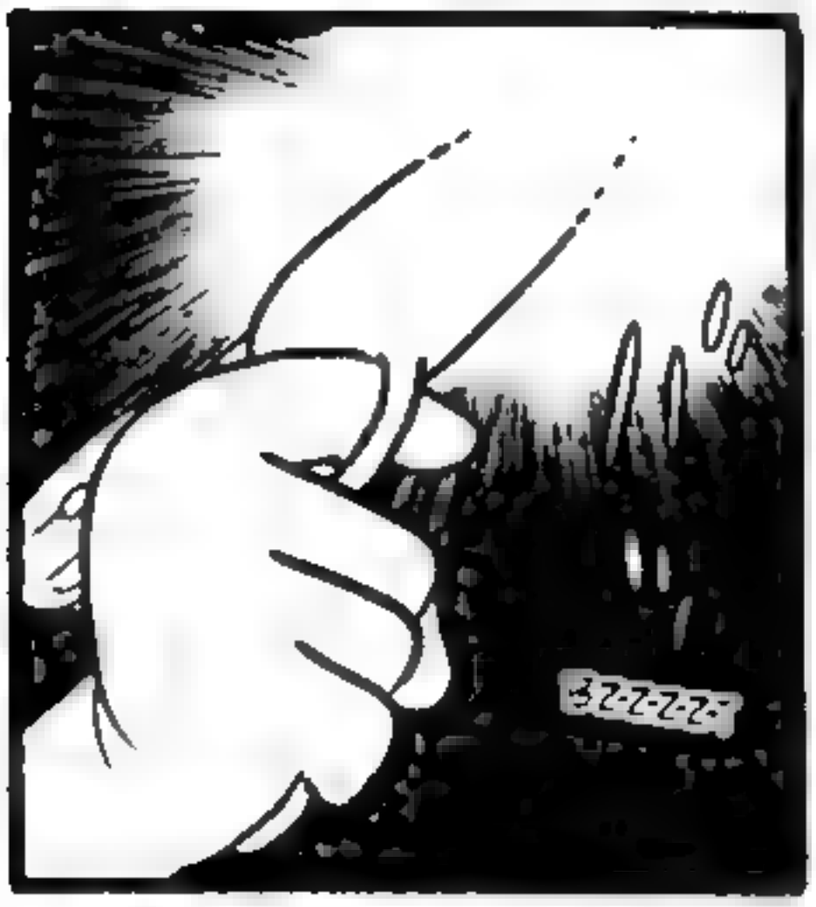


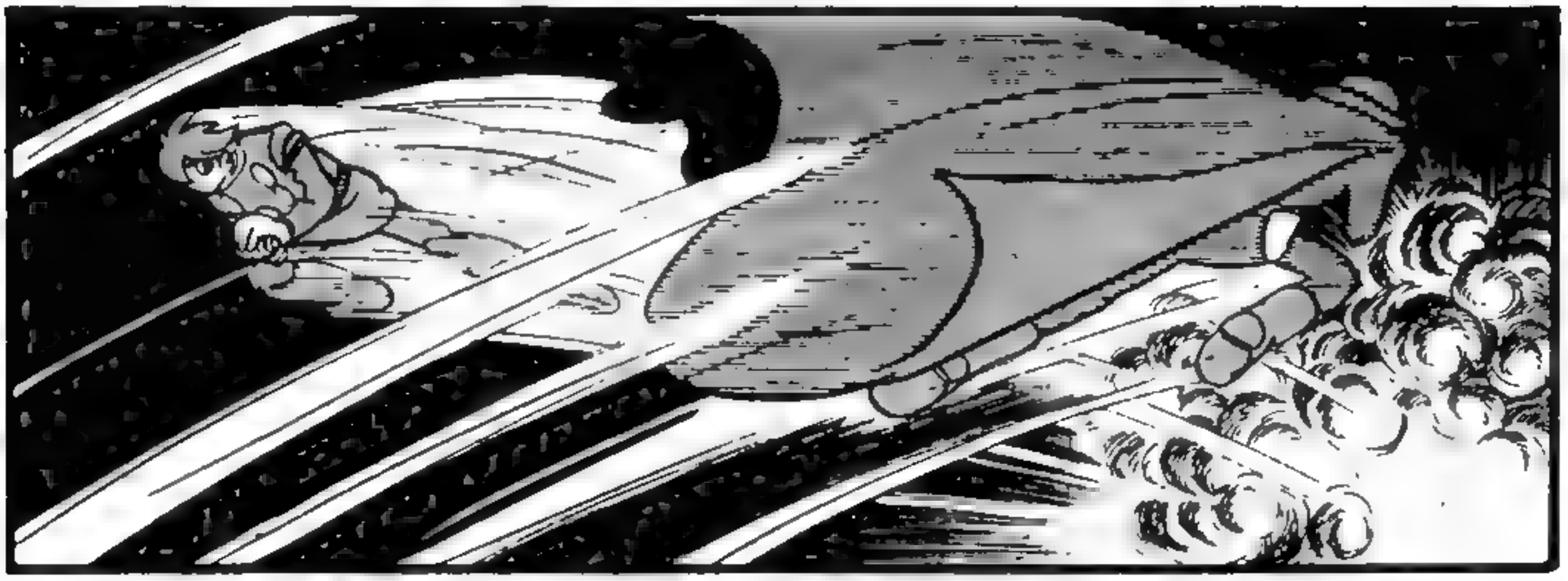


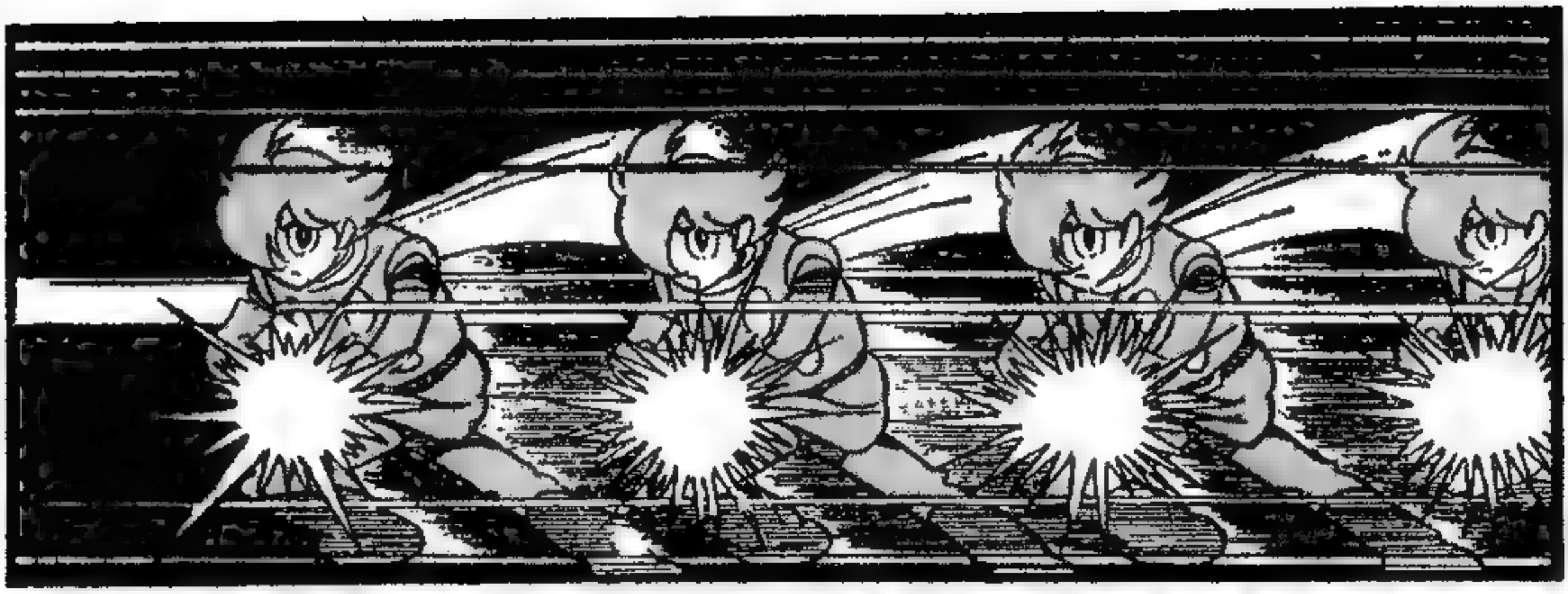


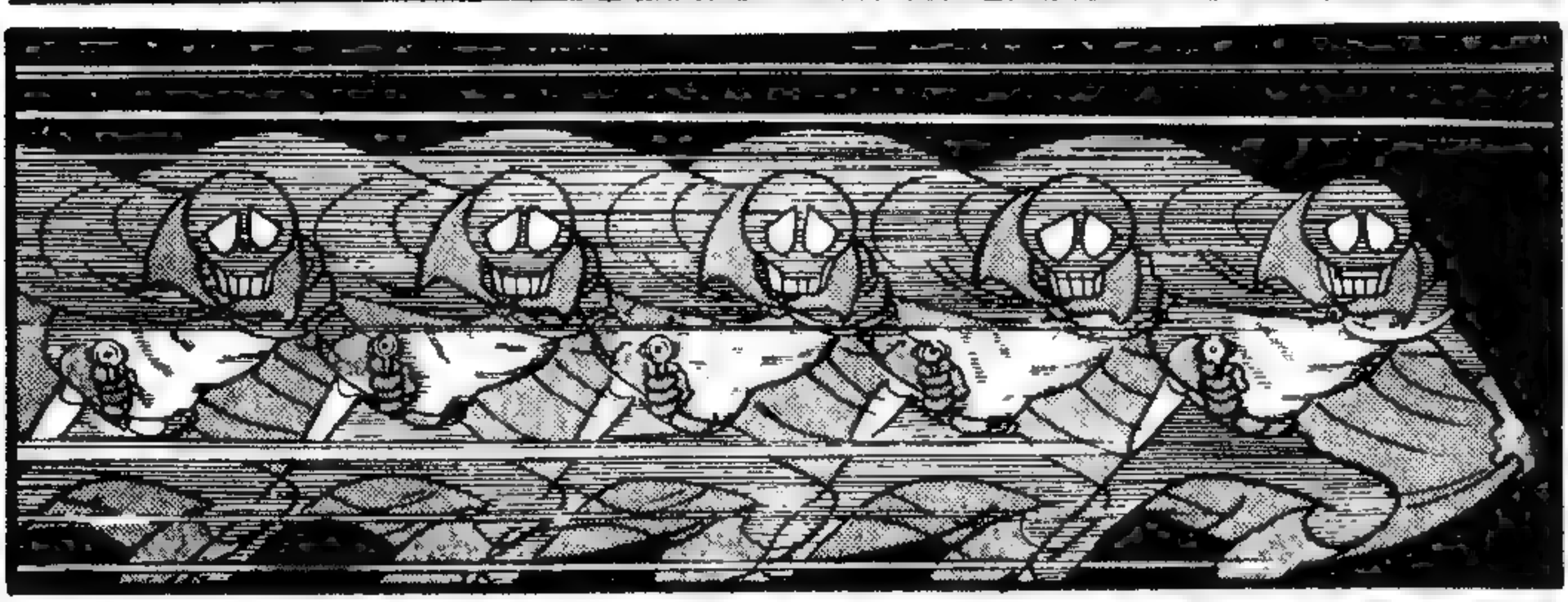
CHIK
カチ"

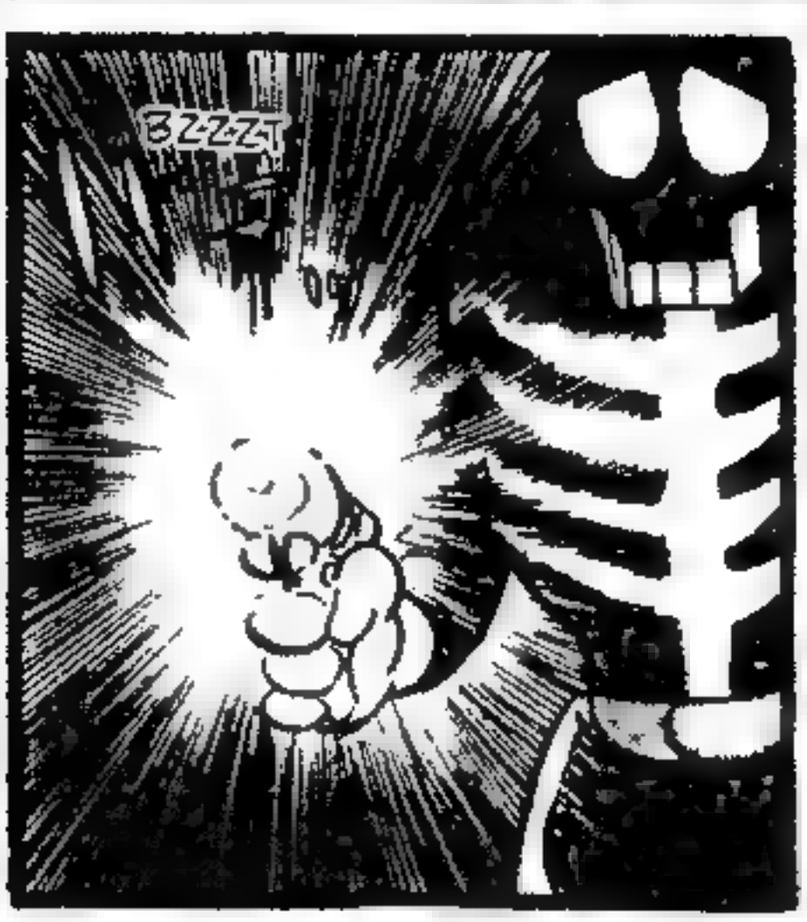
LET'S DO IT, 009. I'M AS ANXIOUS AS YOU ARE TO FINISH THIS!
KUH KUH KUH KUH...

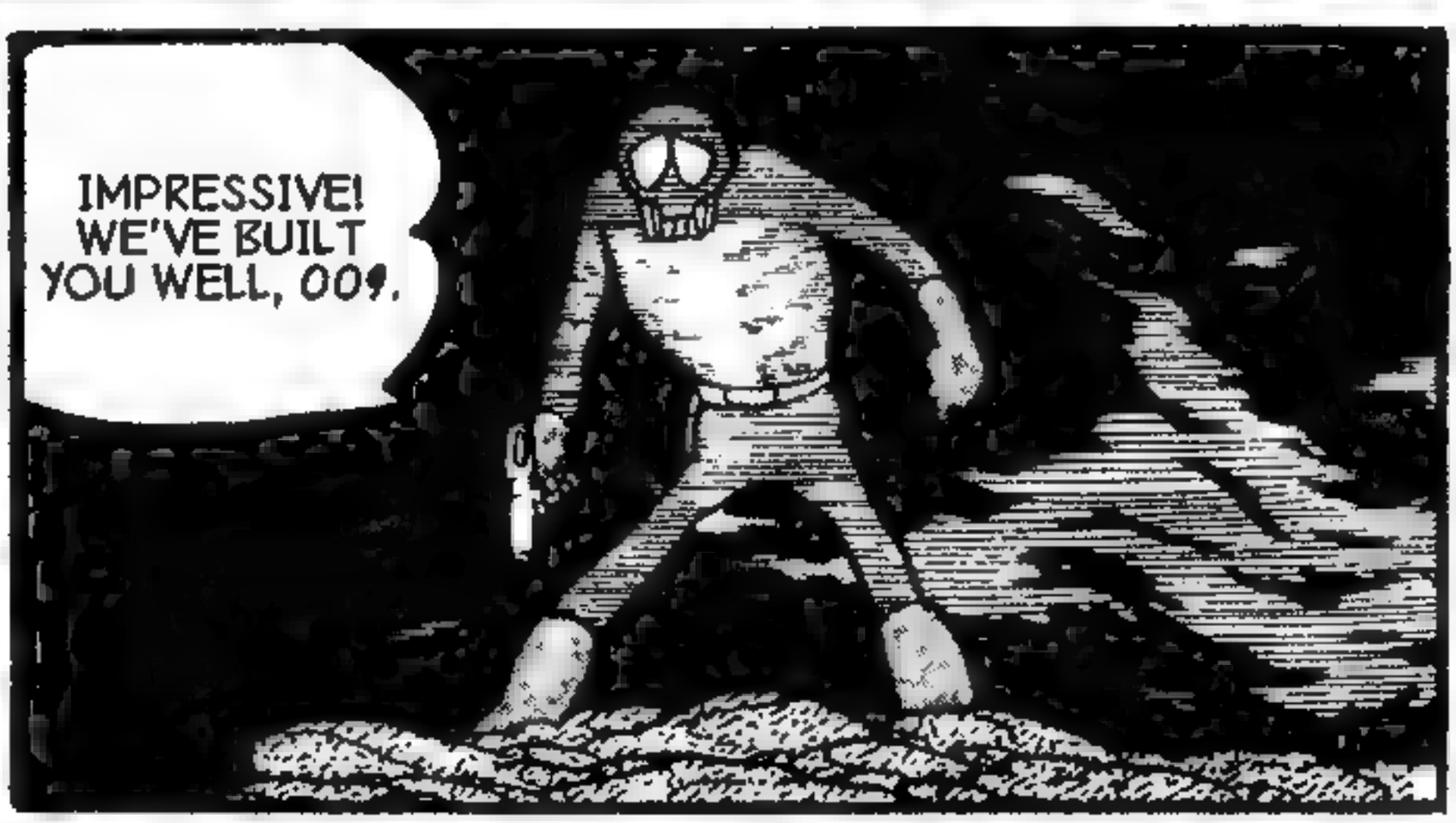

ZZZZZZ

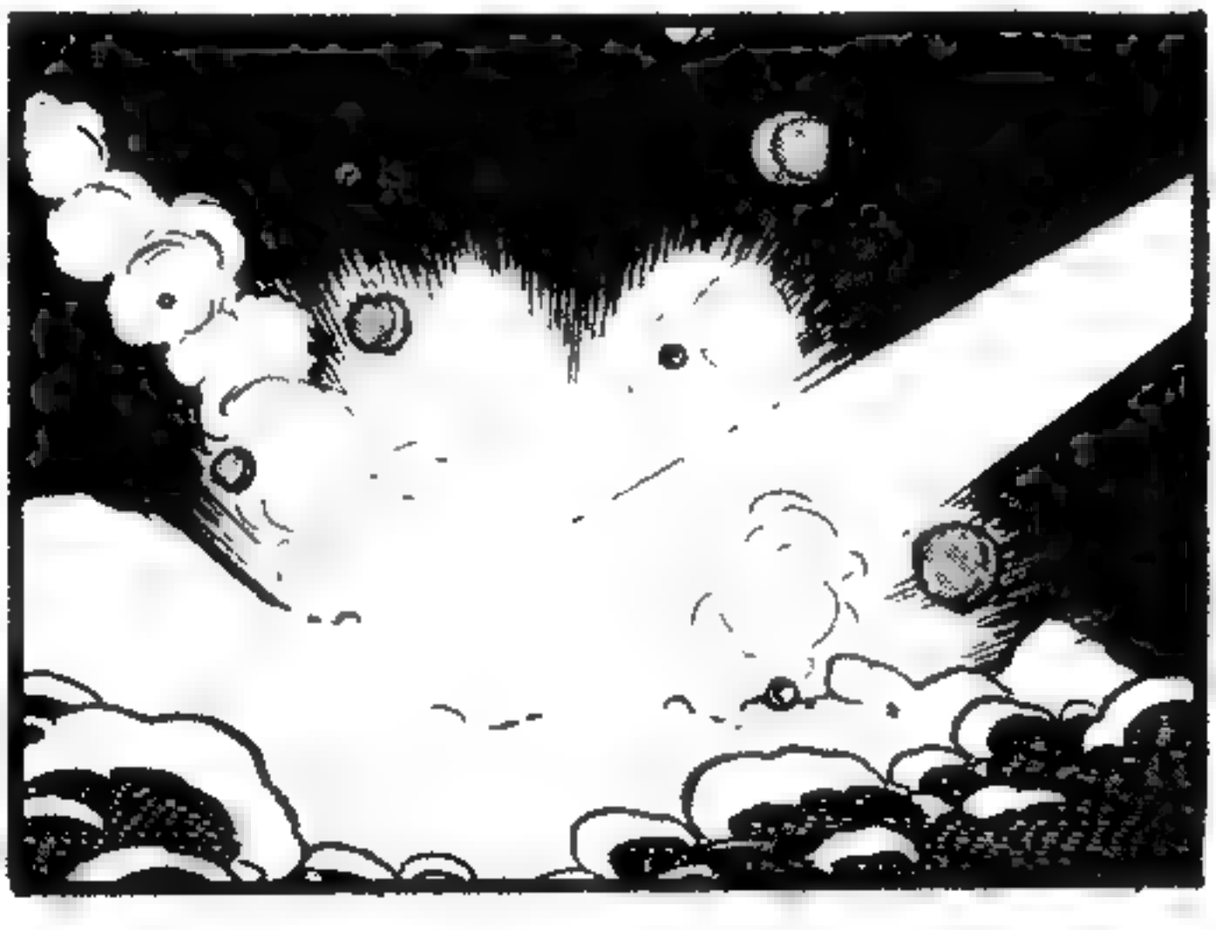


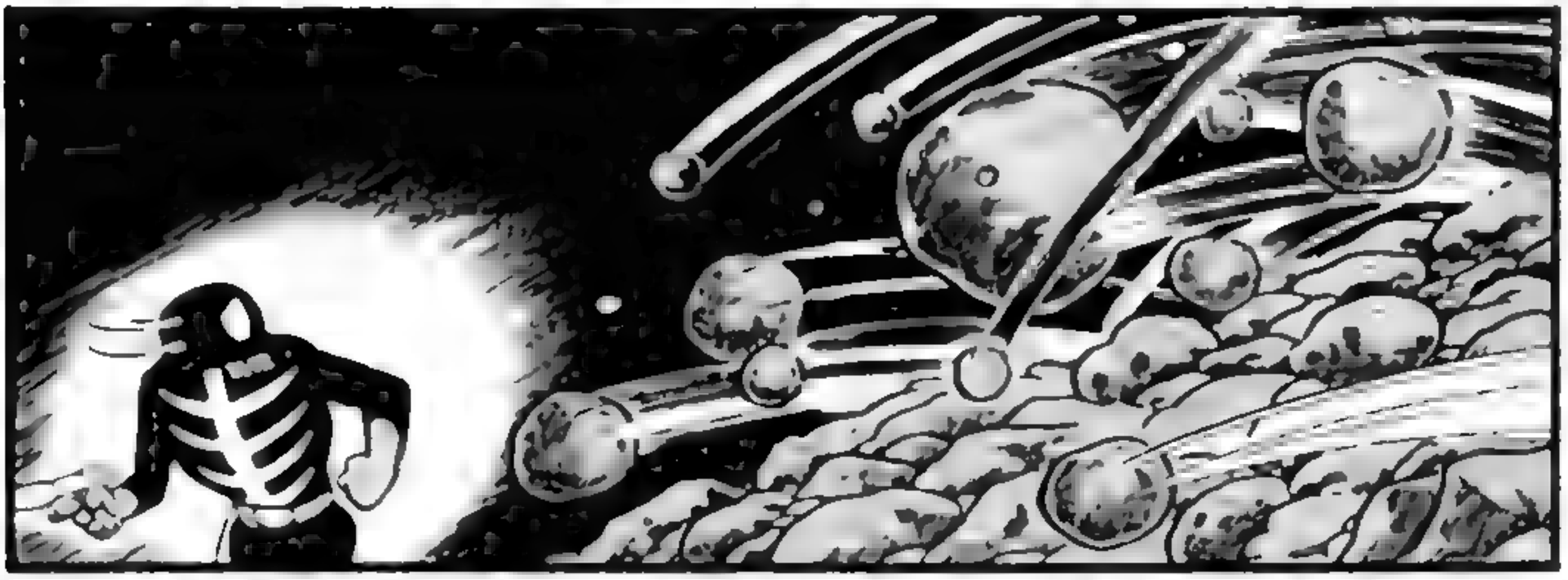


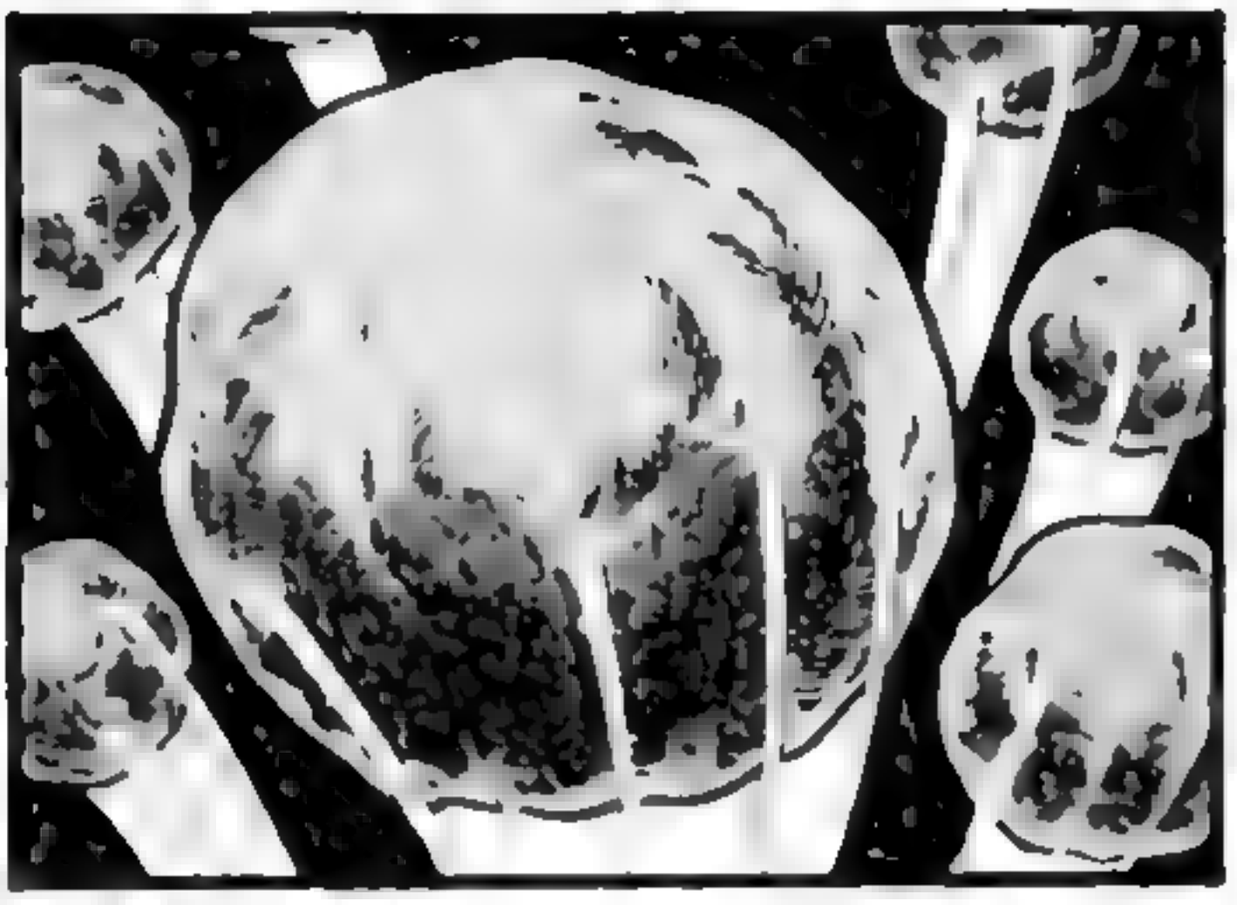



BZZZT


IMPRESSIVE! WE'VE BUILT YOU WELL, 009.







...

MM.

It's finished. Scar, return now.

KUH KUH KUH KUH...

I UNDER-
STAND
GENERALIS-
SIMO. I'M
ON MY WAY.

AH!

SHUUU

WOAH!

D-
DAMN.

FWASH

WHOOOM

GO! RUN!!

WATCH OUT, EVERYONE!

GET OUT OF HERE!

AH!

HUH?

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

EVERYONE, SPREAD OUT!

HOLD ON...

DON'T SCATTER, STAY IN ONE PLACE...

EVERYONE GATHER HERE.

DO

DO

DO

HURRY.

AH! YOU'RE AWAKE.

IT'S OK!

Perfect!

Gather

DON'T MOVE!

Pitiful! An army of soldiers that has to be rescued by a telepathic infant!

...

SSSSSS

SSSSSS

SSSSSS

SSSSSS

...

Hah hah hah! This is NOT finished!

...fu... see ya. I'll be waiting...

...

001! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

HE'S HEADED TO THE SURFACE!

HE'S GETTING AWAY!

...009...?

YIKES...

WHUD

MM...!

GUH.

UGH.

...APPEA-RED!

...DIS...

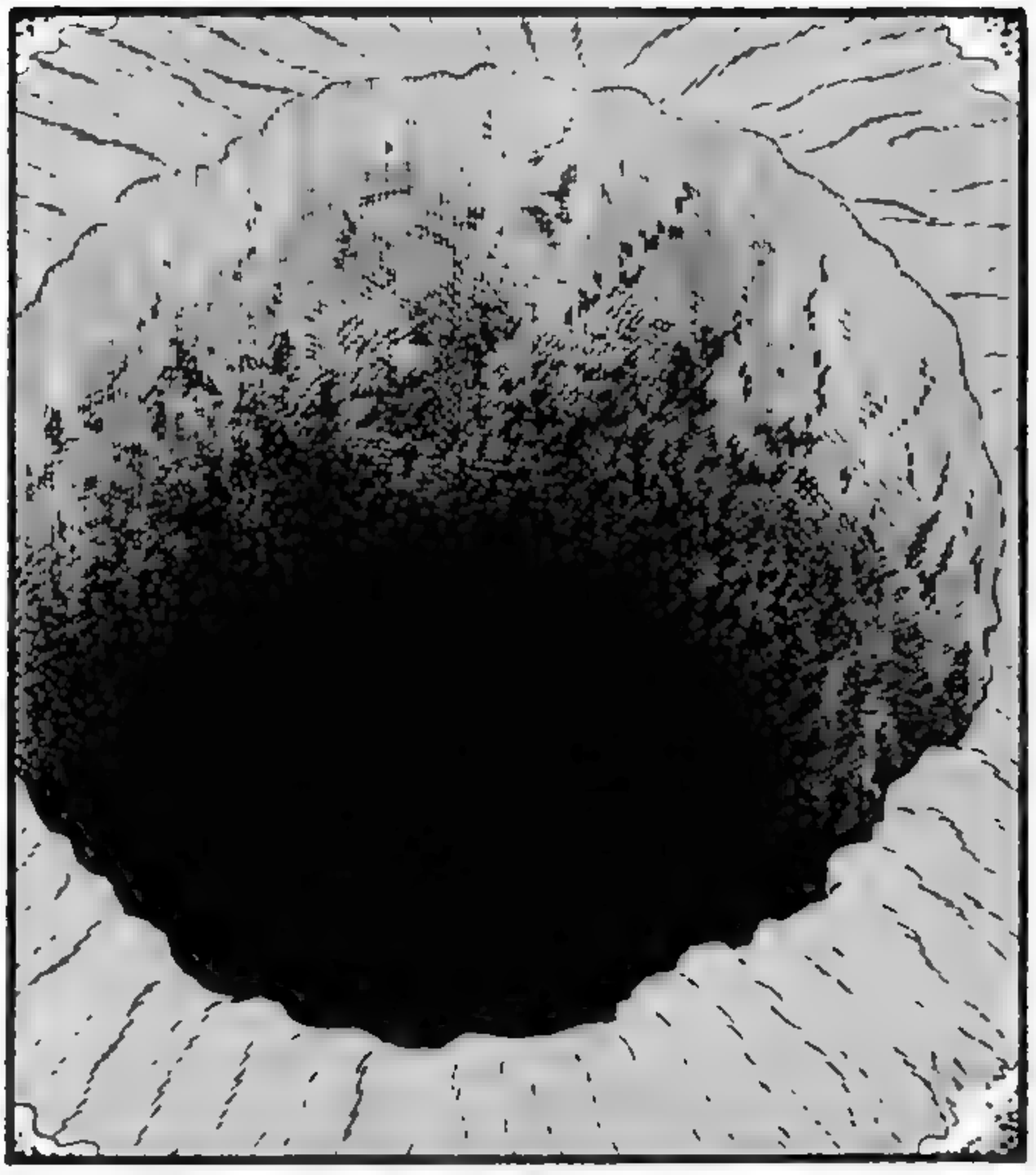
HE...

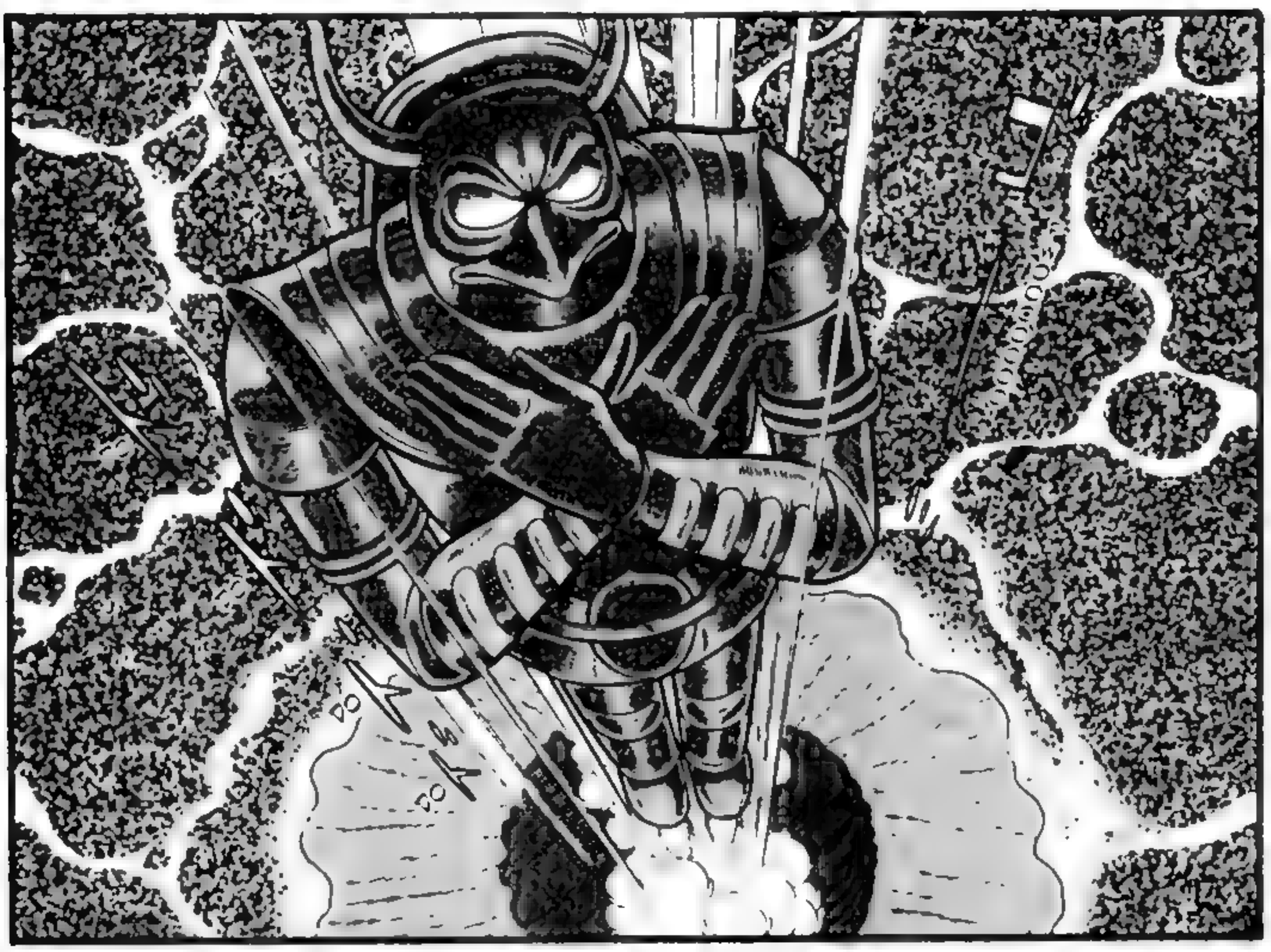
WHUD

DCHK

WHUMP

CHAPTER 37
FROM THE SURFACE TO QUICK FREEZE




DO
YOU
DO

You've caused me and this organization far too much trouble, especially since we're responsible for your creation!

BWA HA HA HA HA

WAH HA HA HA HA

Hu hu hu, wah ha ha ha ha...

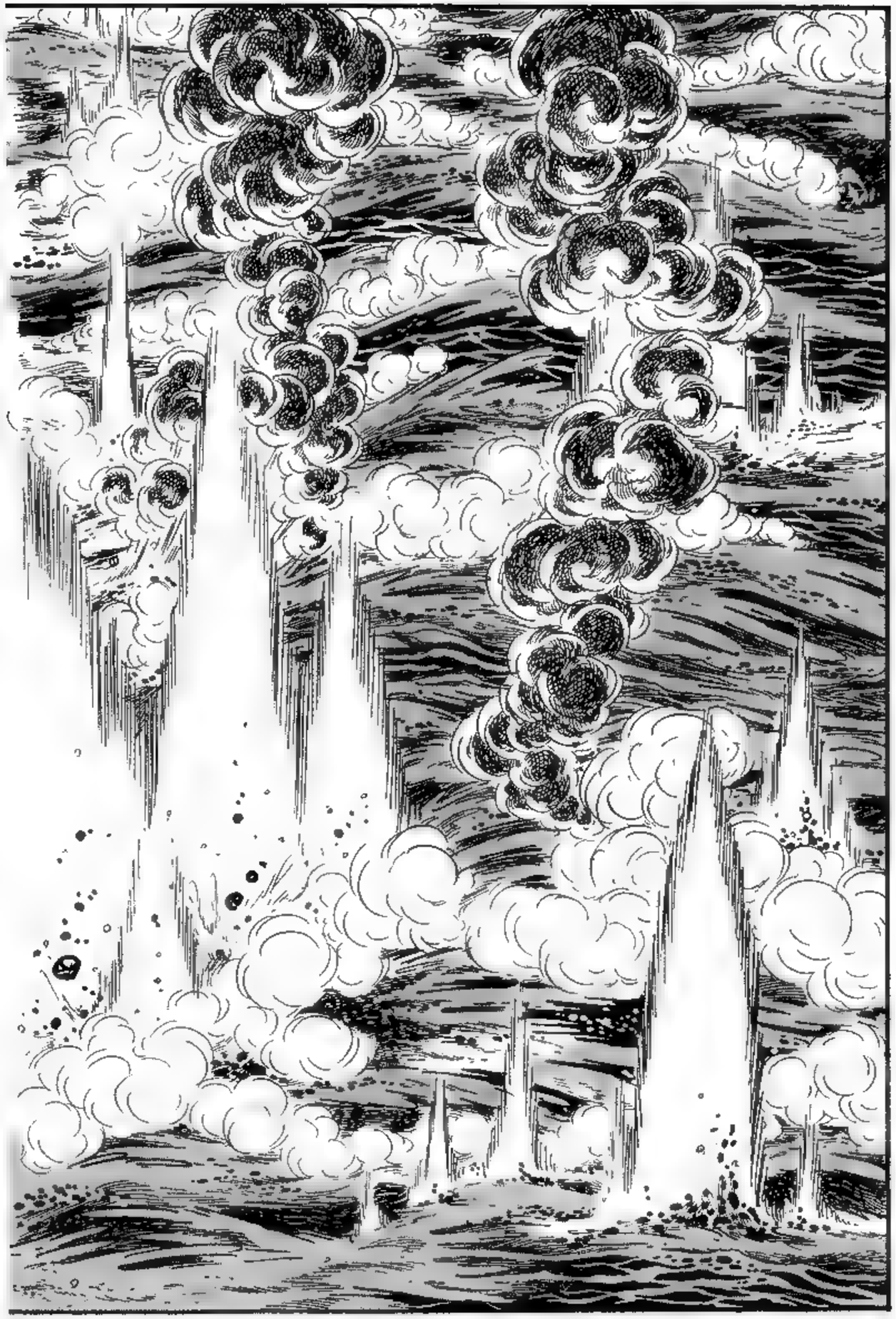
My precious zero zero cyborgs...

Believe me when I say this is the last time our paths will cross. I've placed hydrogen bombs all throughout Hades.

Good-bye!

ヒュン ——— ェ300000

RUMBLE



AH.

WHERE IS EVERY-ONE ELSE?

WHERE AM I?

...HUH?

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

AH.

DO

DO

DO

001 MUST HAVE SEND ME HERE USING HIS TELEPORTA-TION.

I... I MUST BE INSIDE THE DEMON-GOD STATUE.

THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH.

IF I GO, HE'S GOING WITH ME... KIND OF ROMANTIC WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT...

BUT NOT WITH-OUT BLACK GHOST...

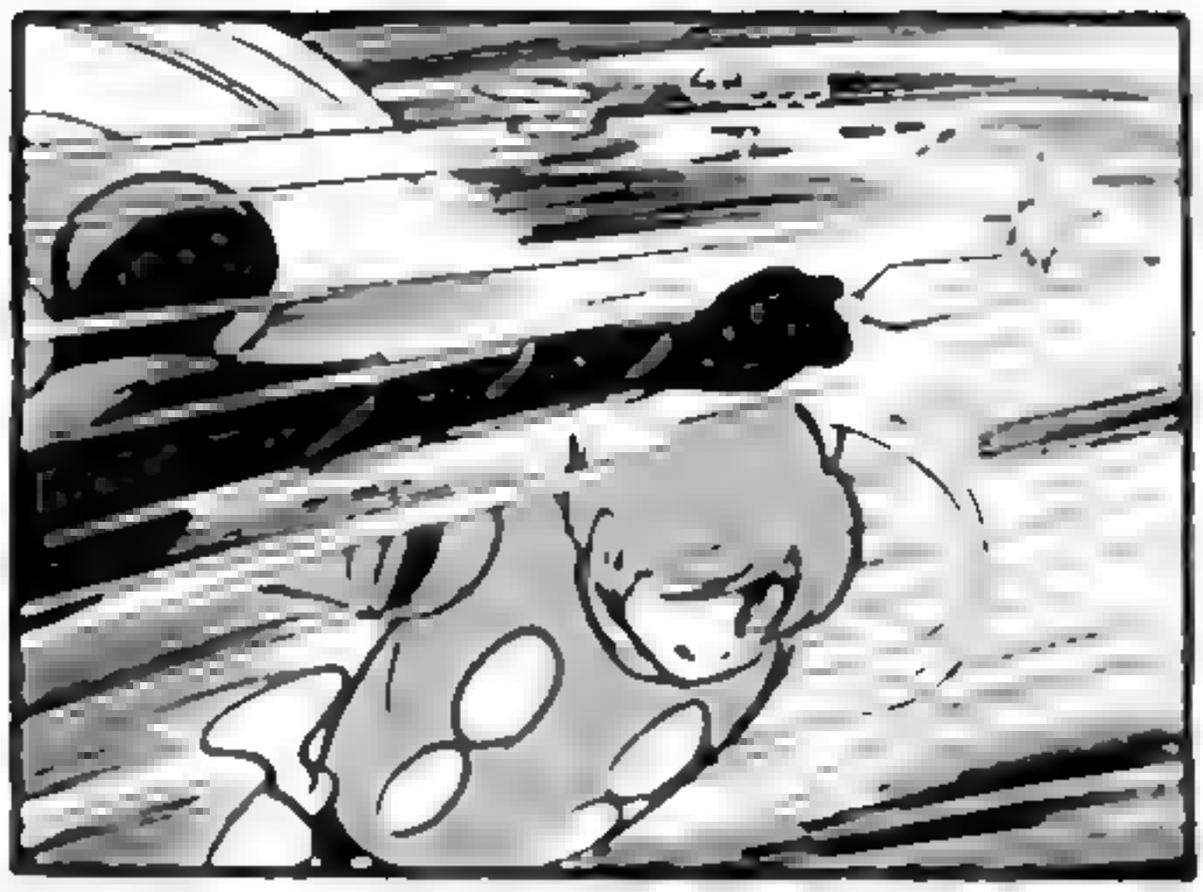
I'M PROBABLY GOING TO DIE HERE!

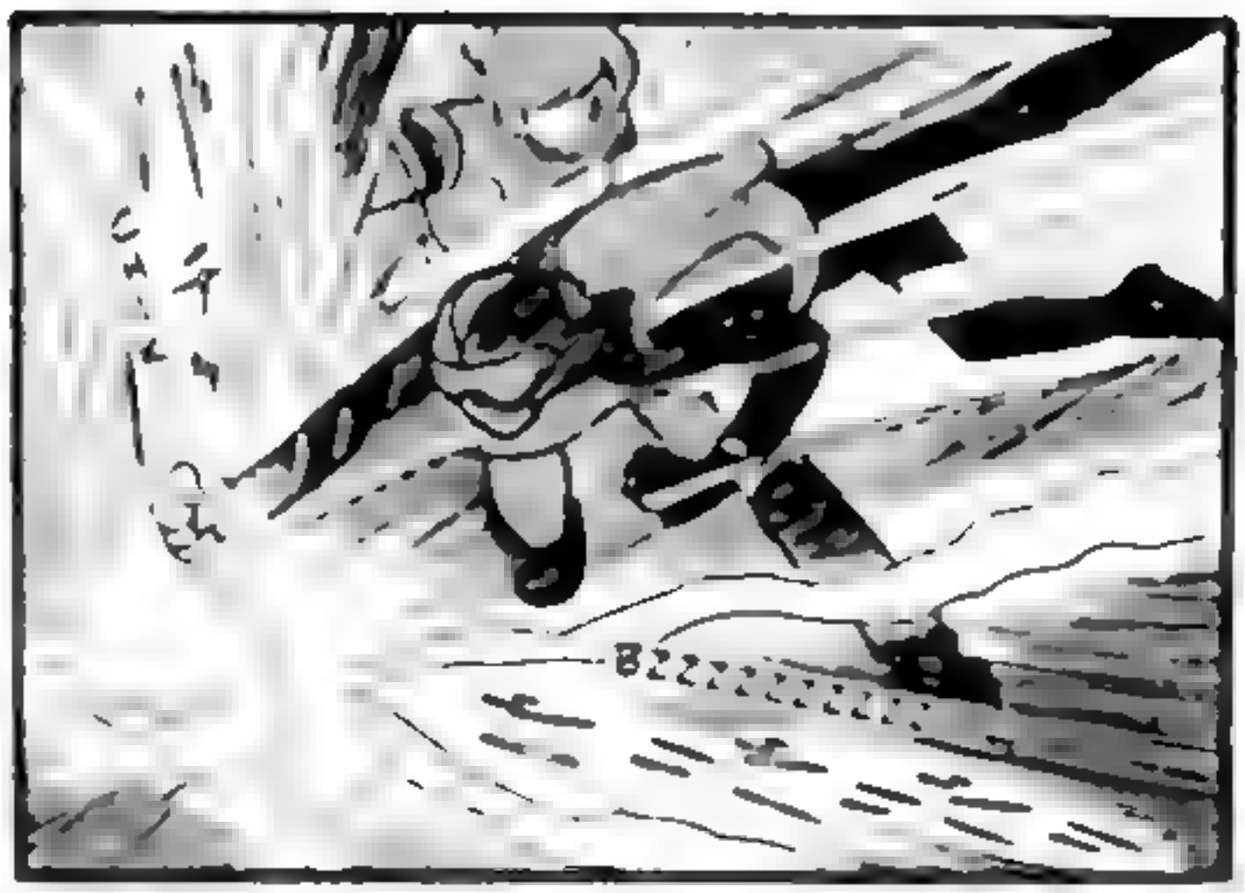
.....

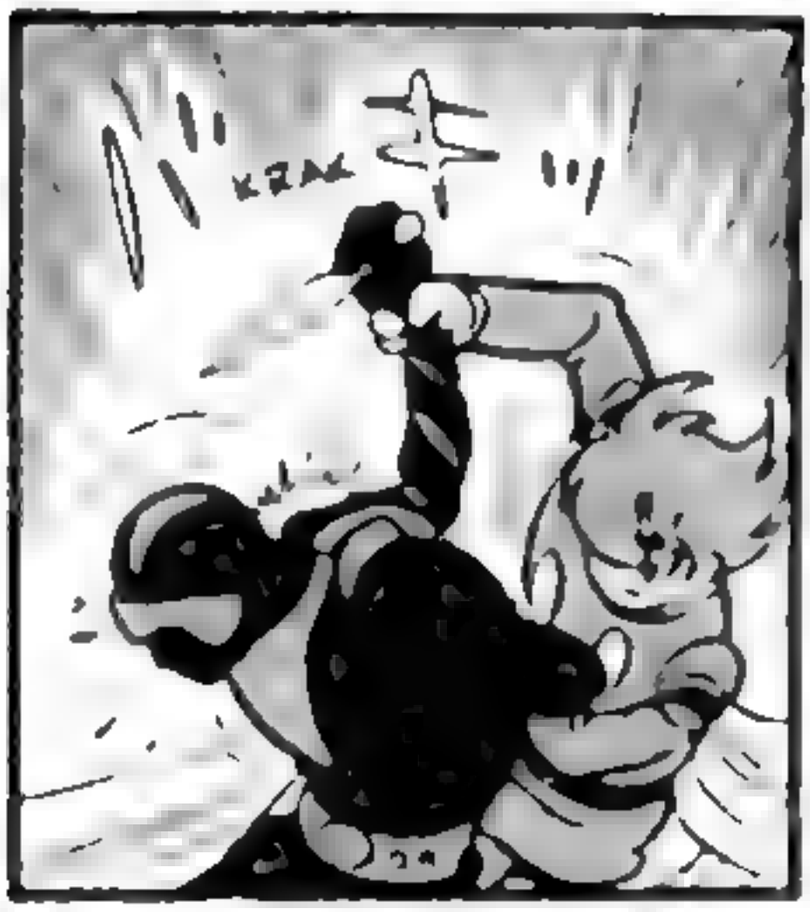
AH!

TAK

SHUUU

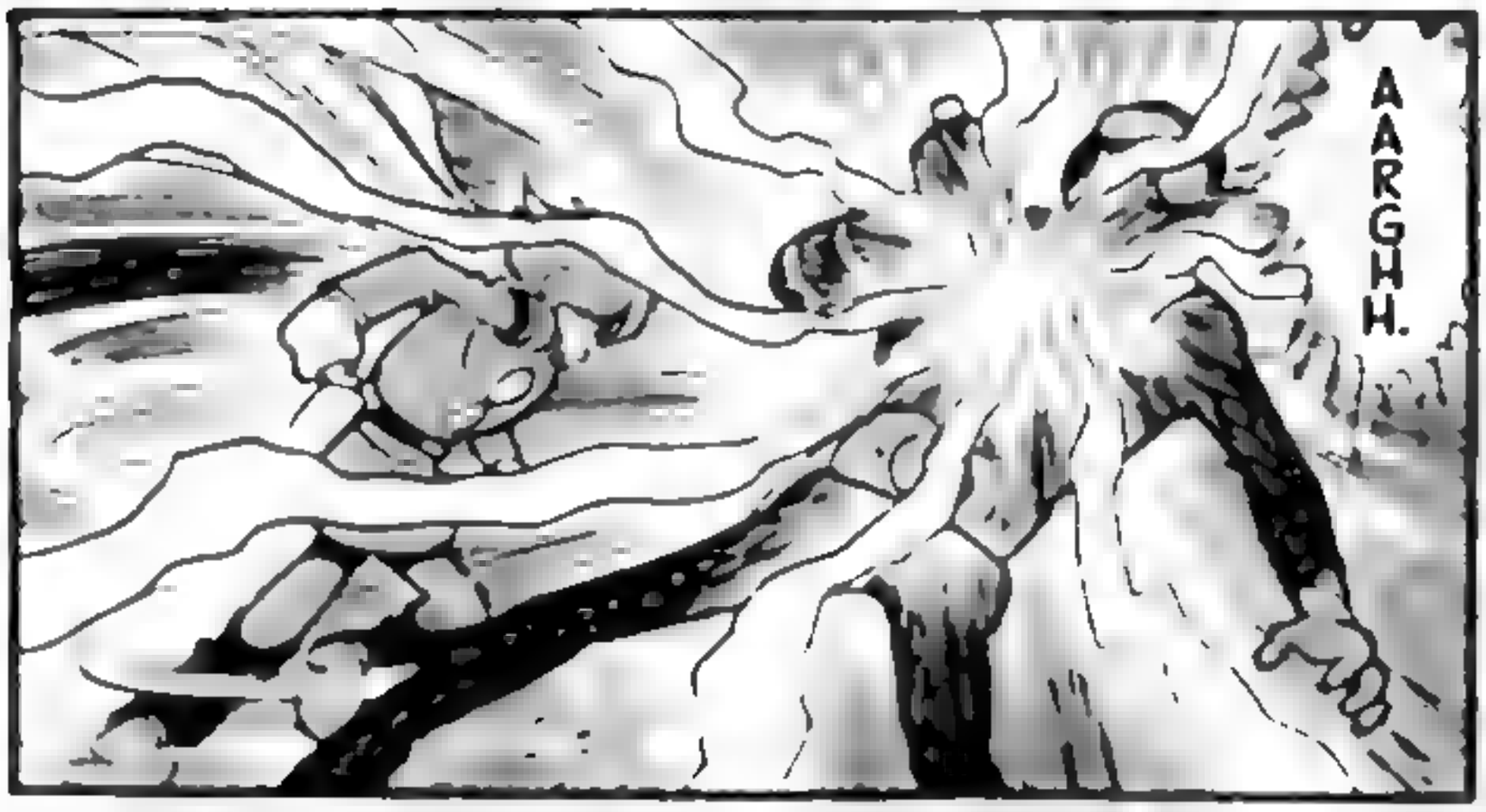



Bzzzzzzzzz


KRAK

AHCP

WHOK


AARGHH.

WHY DIDN'T THEY USE GUNS? UNLESS...

THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO USE KNIVES!

WHA ...?

...I GET IT!

NO TIME NOW TO THINK ABOUT IT. I HAVE TO FIND BLACK GHOST.

BUT... WHAT COULD IT BE? WHAT PURPOSE DO THEY SERVE?

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THESE MACHINES DOWN HERE THAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT.

IT'S TOO DAN- GEROUS!

THIS CYBERNETIC HAND AND THE BLASTER I'M CARRYING. I'M GOING TO KILL HIM WITH HIS OWN CREATIONS!

...AND I'M GOING TO DO IT WITH THIS MONSTROUS HAND!

...THE MOMENT I GET TO PAY BLACK GHOST BACK FOR ALL THE PAIN AND SUFFERING HE'S CAUSED. PAY HIM BACK FOR ALL THE DEATH HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR ON THE SURFACE WORLD...

SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...

CHAK

!

CHOP

DIE!

KUH KUH KUH...

UGH.

UHHH...

KUKUKUH! WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING? YOU'RE HELPLESS AGAINST ME!

KUH KUH KUH KUH. THOSE ARE NO ORDINARY BRAINS! THEY'RE THE TRUE SPIRIT OF BLACK GHOST...

TH-THREE BRAINS... I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

BR-BRAINS?...

KUH KUH. WAIT! BEFORE YOU DIE... LOOK!

TUG

SEE THE TRUE FACE OF YOUR MISERY! YOUR WORLD'S SUFFERING!

.....

AND NOW, THEY'RE THE LAST THING YOU'LL EVER SEE!

UH...

THE MAINFRAME, IF YOU WILL... TO ALL THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION... ALL OF THE WARRING AND MISERY IN THE WORLD.

...STUB-BORN...!

KUH, YOU'RE...

M... OTH... ER.

LOCK
DEAYAAAA!

WHUMP

WHOK

EASY! NOT SO FAST!

CHAK

CRASH

DOOSH

I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE FIRING THAT IN HERE...

WOULDN'T WANT TO DISRUPT YOUR MOTHER'S NERVOUS SYSTEM NOW, WOULD WE?

BZZZZZZZZZZ

CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE

ZZZZZT ZZZT ZZZZT

HEH.

.....

...LIKE A BABY IN IT'S MOTHER'S STOMACH!

WE'RE IN THE BELLY OF THE 'MOTHER OF ALL EVIL'...

THE WAY I SEE IT...

TA TA

I'M GONNA DO MY BEST!

YOU THINK YOUR GOODNESS AND NOBILITY WILL CHANGE THINGS?

HU HU HU, I SEE.

KRAK

THAK

...COULD NEVER OVERPOWER THE EVIL OF BLACK GHOST!!

...BUT ALL THE SPIRIT OF GOOD-NESS IN THE WORLD...

CHUCKLE

NICE TRY...

CHUCKLE

CHUCKLE

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

POK

SHUUU

YOU'RE GOING TO EAT THOSE WORDS!

FSSSST

WSSSH

OH NO! ACID!

KRAK

THUD

WHOK

I DIDN'T FORGET! TRAITOR!

...A ROBOT?

WHAT? YOU'RE ...

.....

THAT WAS TOO EASY! YOU CREATED ME!

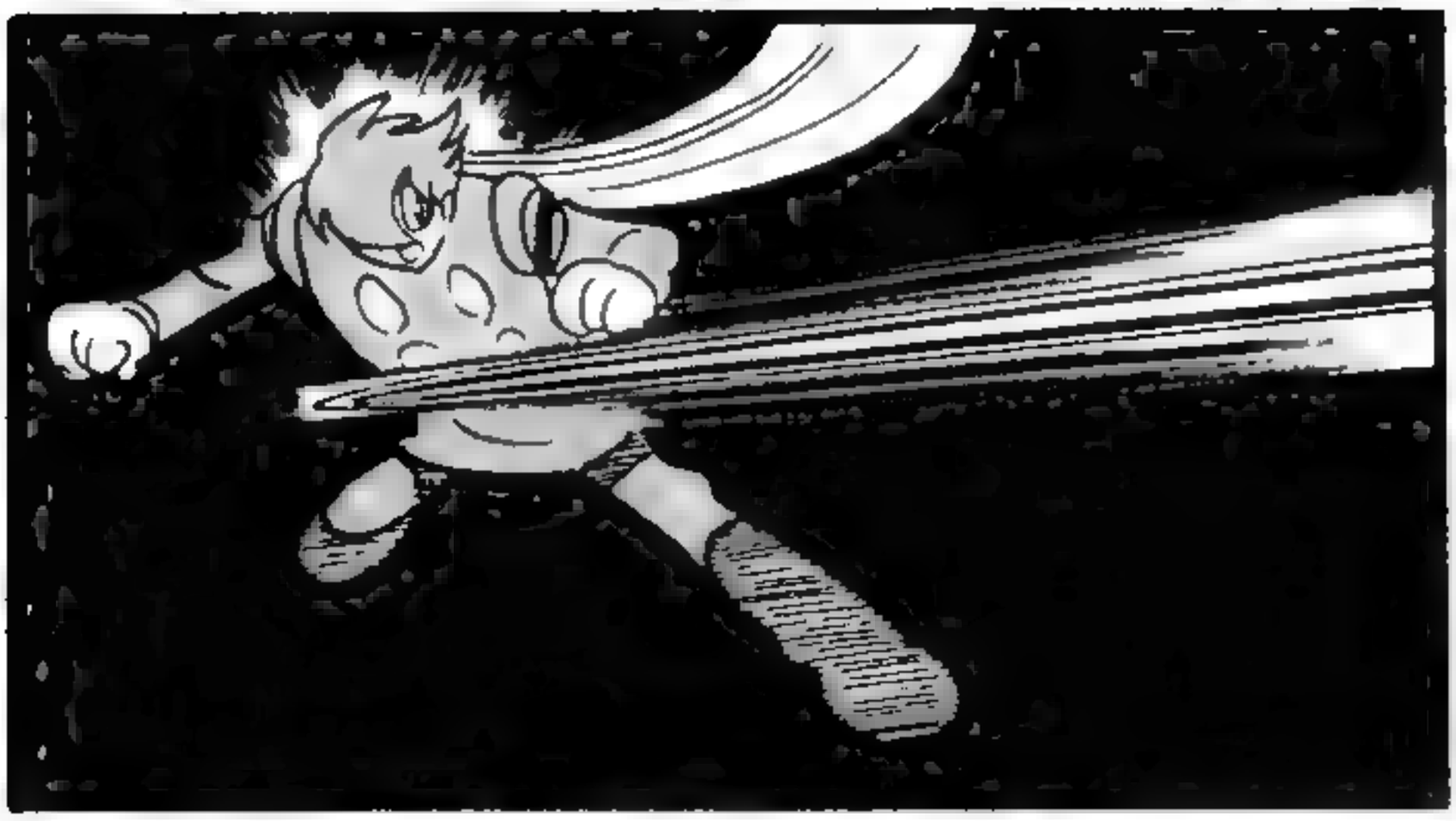
DID YOU FORGET YOU HAD AN ACCELERATION SWITCH?

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT MY ABILITIES FAR SURPASS YOURS.

LIKE YOU, I'M A CYBORG!

FOOL! YOU THINK I NEED A HEAD ON THIS BODY TO FUNCTION? YOU FORGET, CHILD, MY BRAIN IS ORGANIZED MUCH DIFFERENTLY THAN YOURS.

ACCELERATE!!!



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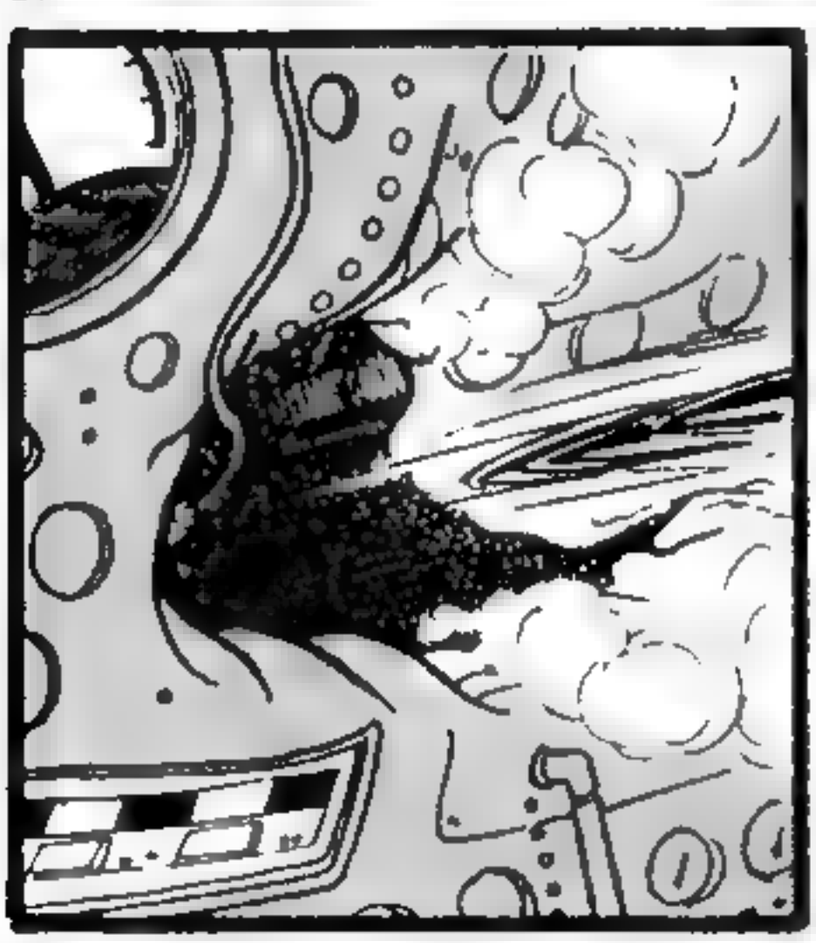
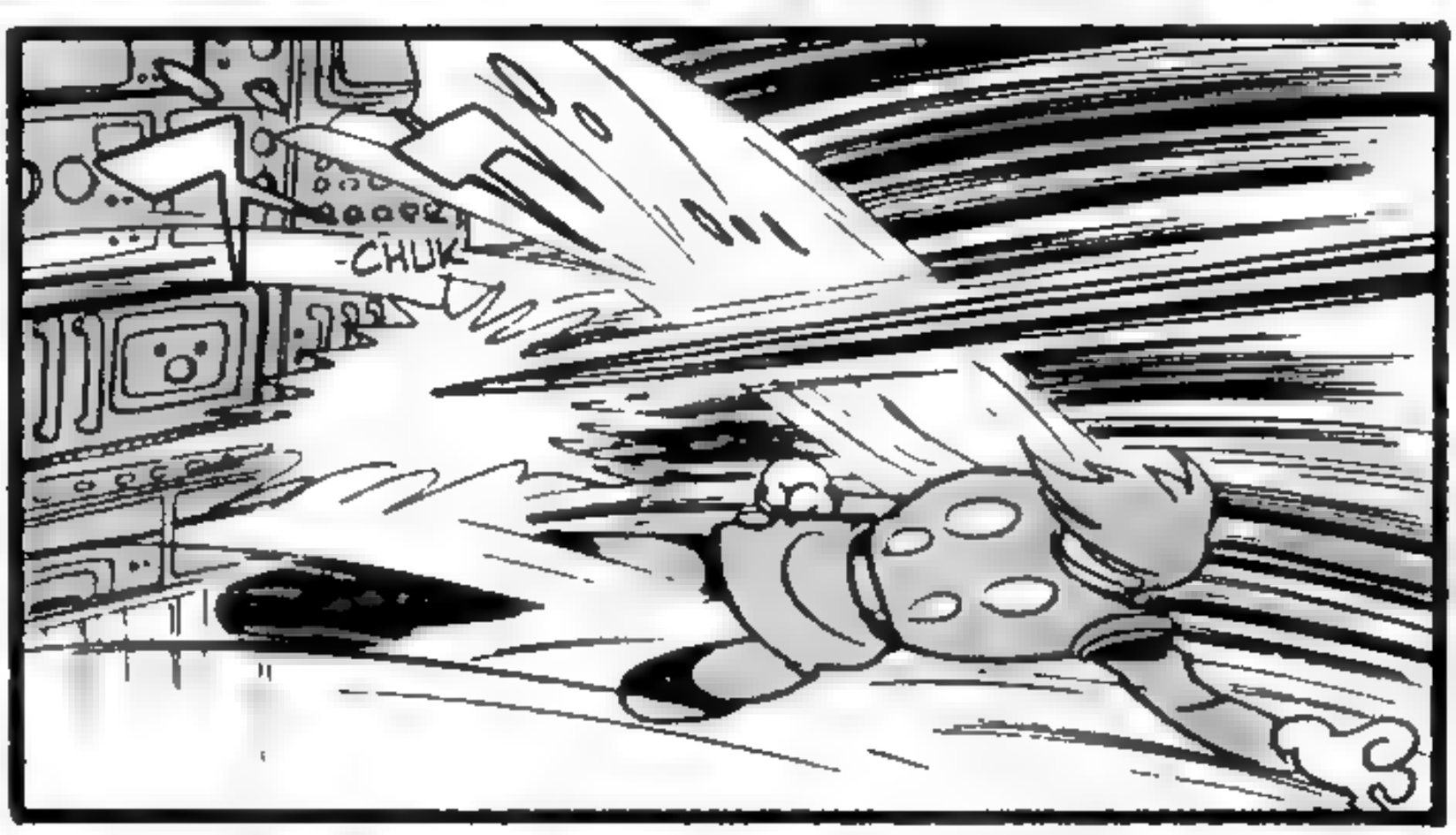
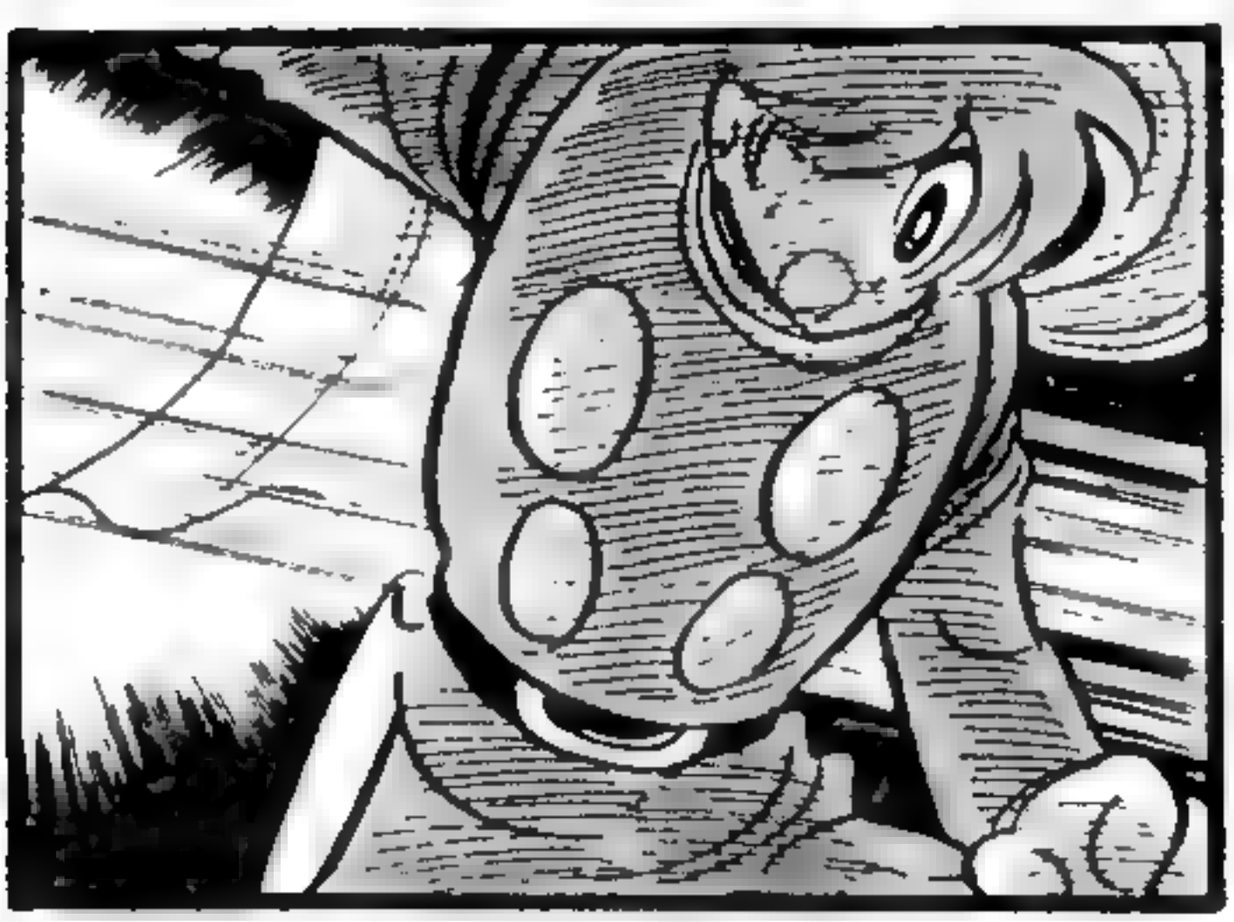
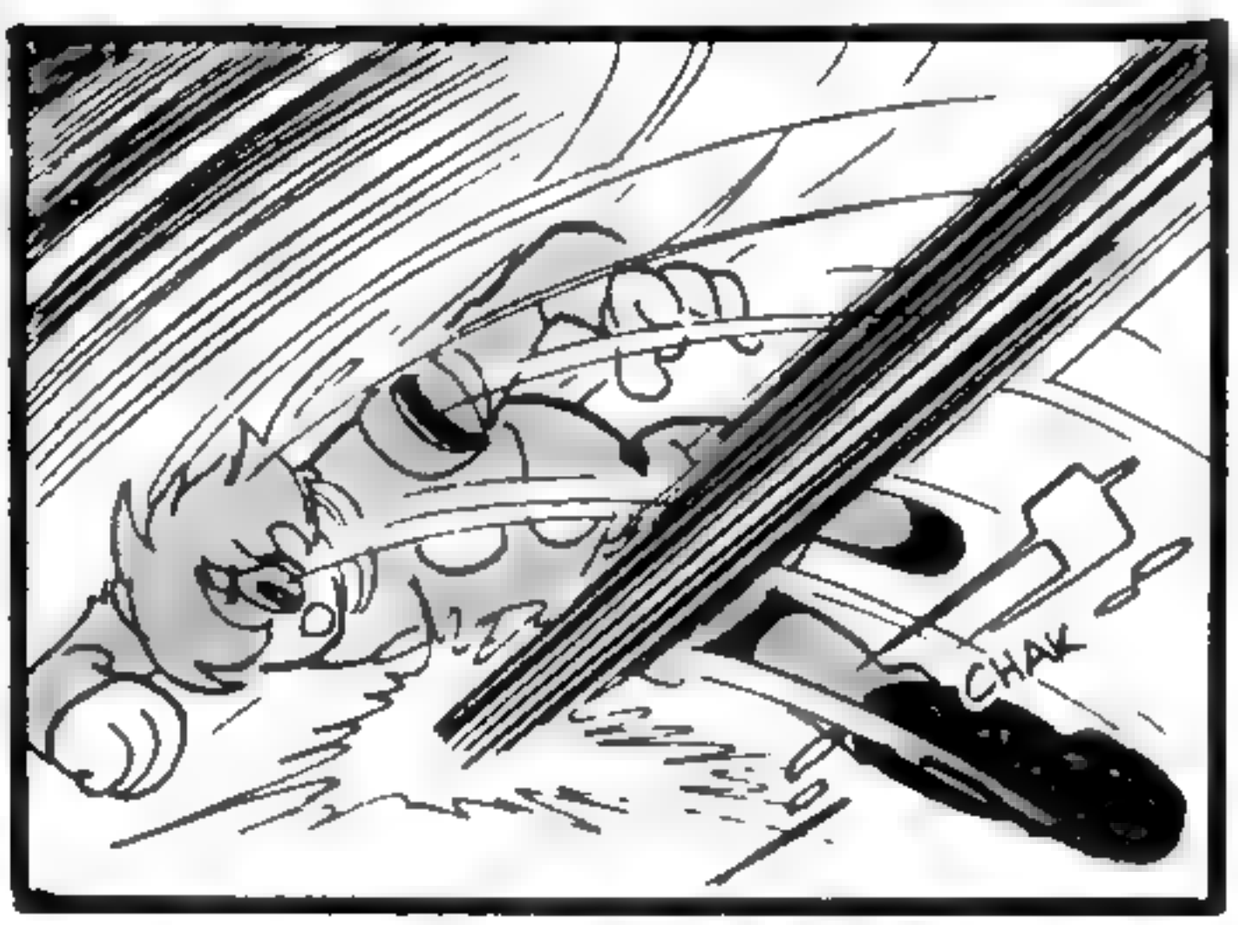
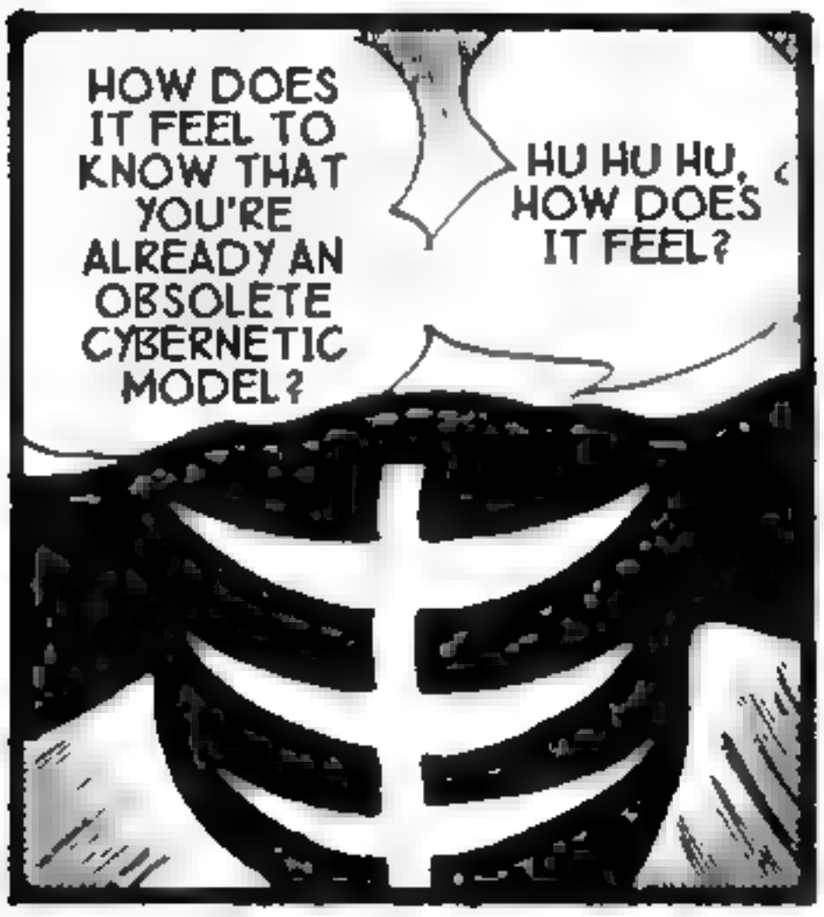
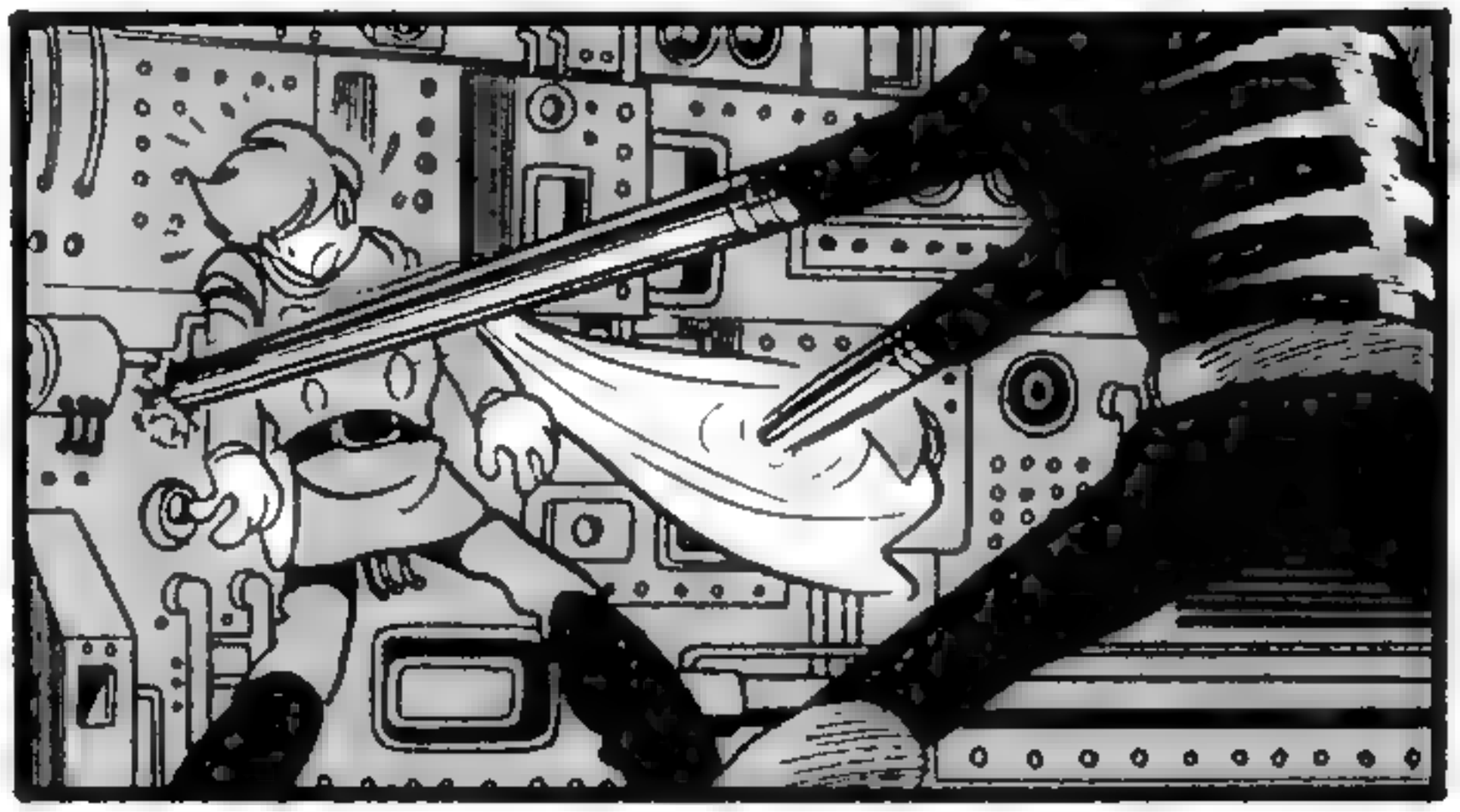



-CHUK




CHAK


HOW DOES IT FEEL TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE ALREADY AN OBSOLETE CYBERNETIC MODEL?
HU HU HU, HOW DOES IT FEEL?



WHAT?

YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A LOUSY ROBOT.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU'RE FOOLING.

HU HU HU.

POK

DAMN.

THAT'S WHERE YOU GET YOUR THOUGHTS... YOUR IDEAS... WITHOUT THOSE JARS, YOU'RE NOTHING! NOTHING!

THERE'S NOT A SINGLE CHUNK OF FLESH IN YOUR COLD, ROBOTIC BODY.

DAMN. YOU CAN'T EVEN THINK FOR YOURSELF. SEE THOSE WRINKLED UP BRAINS BEHIND YOU?

BZZZZT

THUD

KRAK

CHOOM

REV-CQ

UH.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT.

YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN AN ANNOYING FLY.

...

CHAK

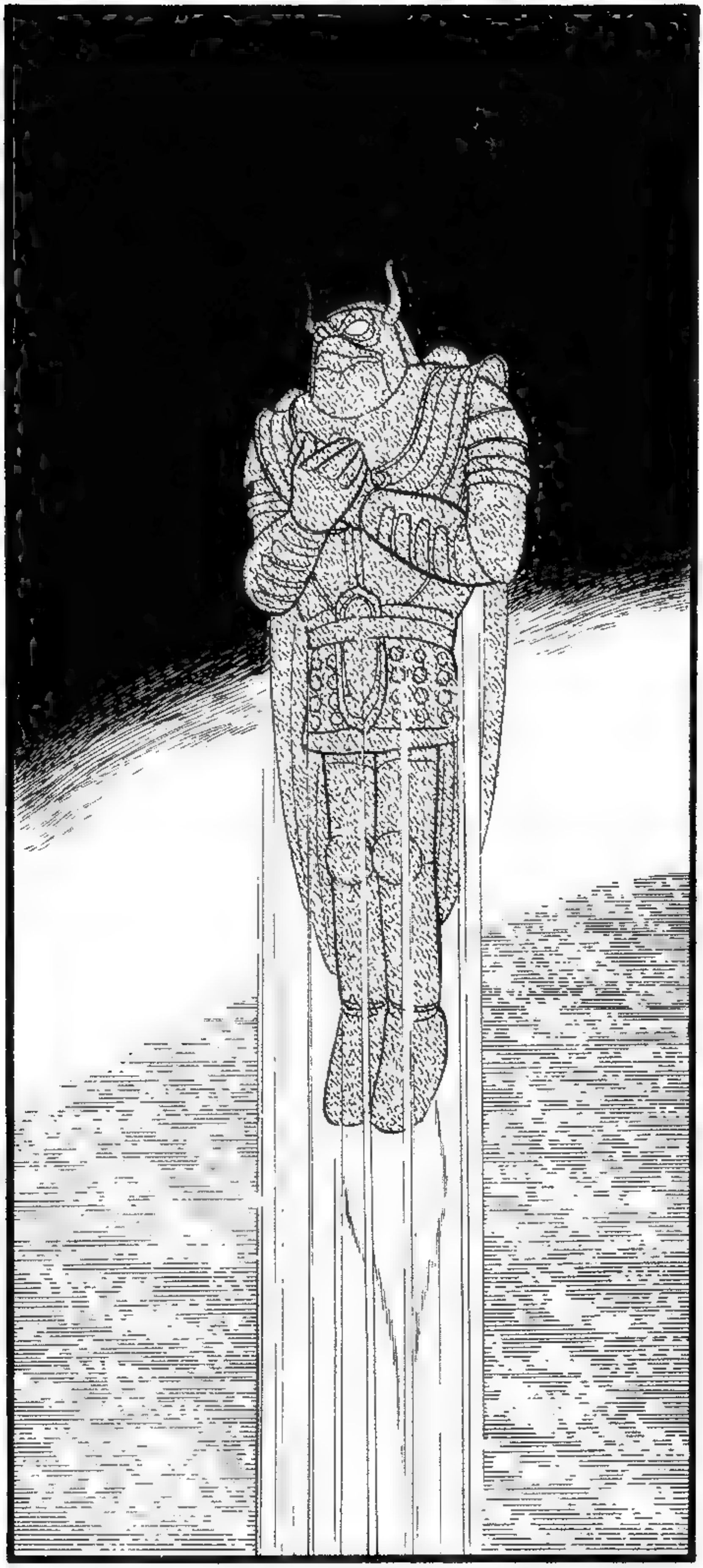
SNAP

BLACK GHOST... NO MATTER WHAT... IF I LIVE OR DIE...

...THIS ENDS NOW!!

.....

GRIN



I CAN TELEPORT MYSELF AS EASILY AS I CAN AN ENTIRE ARMY.

MY TELEPORTATION POWERS ARE LIMITLESS.

I BROUGHT US HERE.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

I WAS ABLE TO TELEPORT US OUT OF THE WAY FROM CERTAIN DOOM.

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF MY WILL POWER AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MOVE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HADES IS DESTROYED?!

...MOMENTS BEFORE ALL OF THE HYDROGEN BOMBS WERE SET OFF, DESTROYING HADES.

I BROUGHT US ALL HERE IN THE NICK OF TIME... BEFORE THE FINAL BLAST...

...IN THE HEART OF THAT DEMON GOD STATUE.

HE SET OUT TO DESTROY BLACK GHOST...

001, WHERE IS 009?

WAIT! WHERE'S JOE?

THERE WERE TOO MANY DEVICES. IT WAS TOO LATE TO STOP THEM FROM DETONATING.

I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP IT.

THAT'S NOT RIGHT!

OH... NO!!

.....

THE STATUE?! 009 MADE IT INSIDE OF THE STATUE?!

COULDN'T YOU HAVE STOPPED HIM?!

B-BUT... WASN'T THERE ANOTHER WAY?!

HE KNEW THAT COST JUST AS WELL AS HADES KNEW THEIR SACRIFICE...

HE KNEW THE RISK OF HIS ACTIONS... HE KNEW PEACE WOULD COME AT A DEADLY COST...

THE STATUE HAS FLOWN OUT OF THE STRATO-SPHERE.

THEY'RE OUT OF MY REACH. I CAN'T HELP HIM NOW.

SPLASH!

.....

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A TEAM... SOB

HORRIBLE! IT'S TOO HORRIBLE...

I'VE GOT TO TRY.

WAIT! 002! IT'S TOO LATE! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT!!

I WON'T STAND IDLY BY AND WATCH ONE OF OUR OWN DIE.

WHIZZZZZ

AS LONG AS THERE'S A GLIMMER OF A CHANCE...

...I WON'T STOP FIGHTING... I WON'T STOP TRYING... TO SAVE MY FRIENDS... TO SAVE THE WORLD!

GOD, IF EVER I NEEDED YOU... IT'S RIGHT NOW!

THERE IS NOTHING WE CANNOT CREATE OR DESTROY WITH THE POWER CONTAINED IN THESE THREE JARS.

THAT ROBOT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL. NO HELP TO US AT ALL.

YOU WERE RIGHT, 009.

AH!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR THEM?

I CAN TELL YOU THREE GOOD REASONS YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.

...

TRY AS YOU MIGHT, YOU'LL NEVER KILL US.

YOUR EFFORTS ARE FUTILE.

WHAT?

WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR BLASTER WON'T FIRE? BWAH HAH HAH!

MMM...

SECONDLY, EVEN IF YOU WERE ABLE TO GET TO US...

GO AHEAD. TRY. GIVE IT A SHOT.

FIRST, YOUR WEAPON COULD NEVER PENETRATE OUR PROTECTIVE CASINGS.

...MEANING THAT THERE COULD BE AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF CLONES JUST LIKE US!

BLACK GHOST AND I ARE BYPRODUCTS OF BIO-CELL TECHNOLOGY...

WHA...?

...YOU'D NEVER SEE THE END OF BLACK GHOST. IT DOESN'T END HERE, YOU SEE.

IMPETUOUS FOOL! IF YOU DESTROY US, YOU TOO SHALL PERISH.

YOU'RE ONLY SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO DESTROY YOU!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

N-NO... THAT'S NOT TRUE!

AH, TO HELL WITH IT!

DAMN...

AND IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS, JUST THINK FOR A MINUTE... WHAT DO I HAVE TO GAIN BY LYING TO YOU AT THIS POINT?

I ONLY TOLD YOU BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO KNOW HOW HELPLESS YOU TRULY ARE.

ZZZZZZZZT

BZZZZ

HU HU HU. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FINALLY BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND...

HU HU HU, THAT'S RIGHT! OUR SPECIAL MODE OF LAST DEFENSE.

AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC BARRIER?

WHAT?

OH NO! I HOPE THIS GRIM REALIZATION ISN'T GETTING YOU DOWN.

.....

FOR YEARS, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HAVE FOUGHT A HOPELESS BATTLE AGAINST US.

YOU CANNOT DESTROY ME...

DO YOU PLAN ON DESTROYING THIS DEMON GOD STATUE?

THE MORE YOU SAY, THE ANGRIER I GET! THE MORE DETERMINED I BECOME TO TAKE YOU DOWN!

GETTING ME DOWN?

HARDLY!

I'LL KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU!

ALL THE PROTECTIVE SHIELDING IN THE GALAXY WON'T SAVE YOU!

I'LL DO WHAT-EVER IT TAKES!

HMM, I SEE.

...AND BLACK GHOST STILL HAS A VAST ARMY OF HUMANS ON THE SURFACE BELOW! THAT, MY SON, IS THE THIRD AND FINAL REASON YOU'LL NEVER STOP US!! HAH HAH HAH!!

BWAH HAH HAH! THAT'S GOING TO BE PRETTY HARD TO DO, KNOWING THAT WE'RE GOING TO DIE UP HERE...

YOU SAY THAT YOU'LL KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF US...

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE'LL SHARE THE SAME FATE.

.....

THAT SAME EVIL FED BLACK GHOST UNTIL IT BECAME THE VAST ORGANIZATION IT IS TODAY.

YOU SEE, BLACK GHOST AND THE KIND OF EVIL IT FEEDS FROM WAS BORN OF THE HUMAN HEART!

YOU CAN'T JUST BLOW UP THE VESSEL AND JUMP AWAY TO SAFETY THIS TIME...

SO, YES, 009, YOU HAVE US CORNERED. THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO ESCAPE THIS TIME. NO WAY OUT, EVEN FOR YOU!

...BECAUSE WE'RE IN OUTER SPACE!

HUH?

...YOU GUYS... LOVED HIM TOO, RIGHT?

...OF COURSE!...

...DID YOU LOVE 009?

003...

.....

UUH, 0041

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...

I... I ALWAYS SUS-PECTED...

EVERY DAY, EVERY TIME EVIL RAISES IT'S UGLY HEAD, I'M ON THE FRONT LINE...

I JUST FEEL SO HELPLESS! EVERYTHING I HAD, EVERYTHING I LOVED IS GONE! IT'S LIKE MY HEART HAS BEEN RIPPED OUT AND THERE'S AN EMPTY HOLE IN MY CHEST!

WE WERE GIVEN THIS FORM... BUILT FOR DESTRUCTION, BUT OUR LOVE AND HOPE PREVAILED.

WE FOUGHT TOGETHER... FOR A BETTER FUTURE... BUT NOW...

.....

...AND NOW THIS HAPPENS. WHY?

.....

I WAS QUOTING FROM MY FAVORITE NOVEL.

HU HU HU, THESE AREN'T MY LINES...

WHERE ARE YOU 009?...

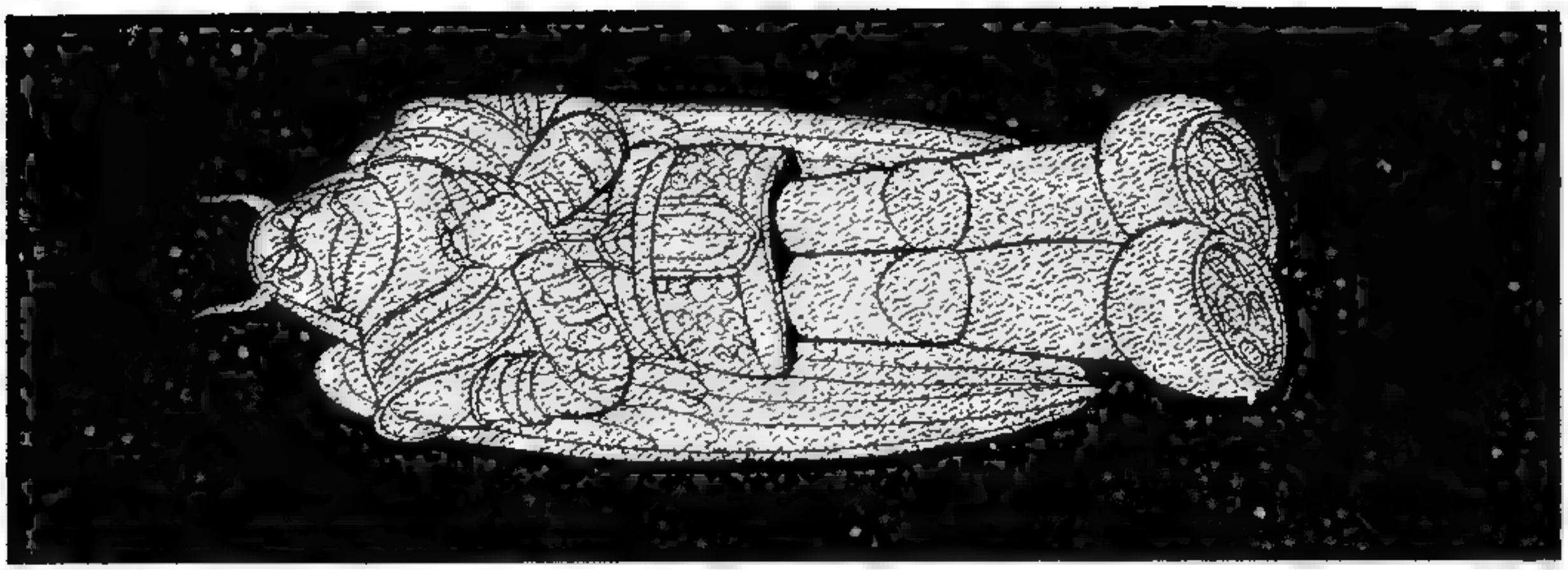
IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, 009, PLEASE ANSWER!

009!

009!

009!

009!



BA BA BA
YOUR DEATH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY LIFE!
...
BA BA BA BA BA BA
BOOM
I SEE YOU'VE DECIDED TO KILL US ALL!
?
...HA HA! SORRY TO SHATTER YOUR HOPES BUT YOUR FRIENDS DIED BEFORE WE LEFT THE ATMOSPHERE!
FRIENDS?... HU HU HU, THAT'S RIGHT. HU HU HU. YOU THINK THEY'RE STILL ALIVE?
YOU CAN DIE KNOWING THAT MY FRIENDS WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST DOWN BELOW!
YOU'RE AS ORGANIC AS I AM. WE CAN DIE TOGETHER!

009...

...CAN YOU HEAR ME? IT'S ME, 002!

009.

THEY WERE BLOWN TO PIECES BY THE HYDROGEN BOMBS PLANTED IN THE UNDERGROUND EMPIRE!

...

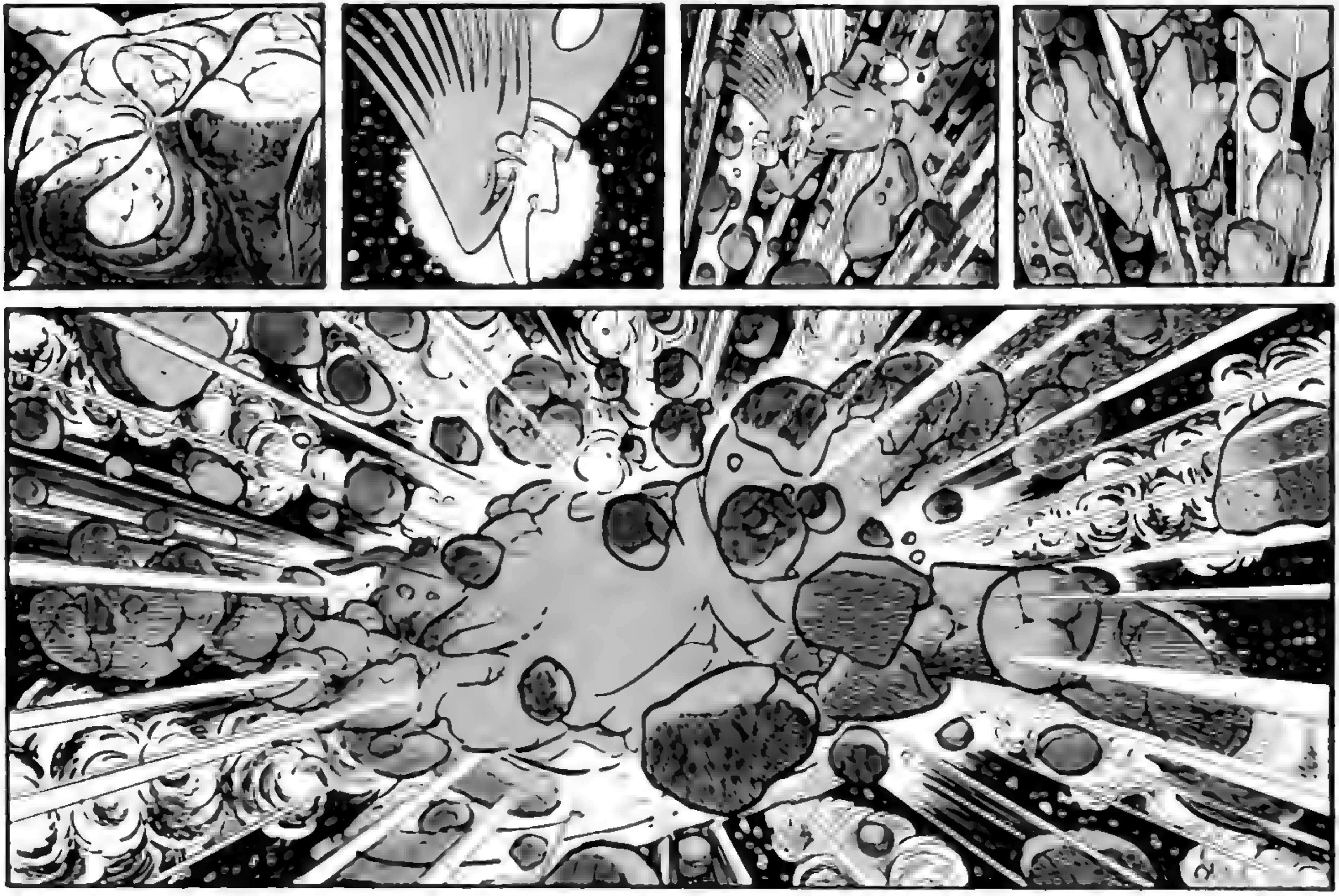
...BUT MY 'FRIENDS' ARE RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR!

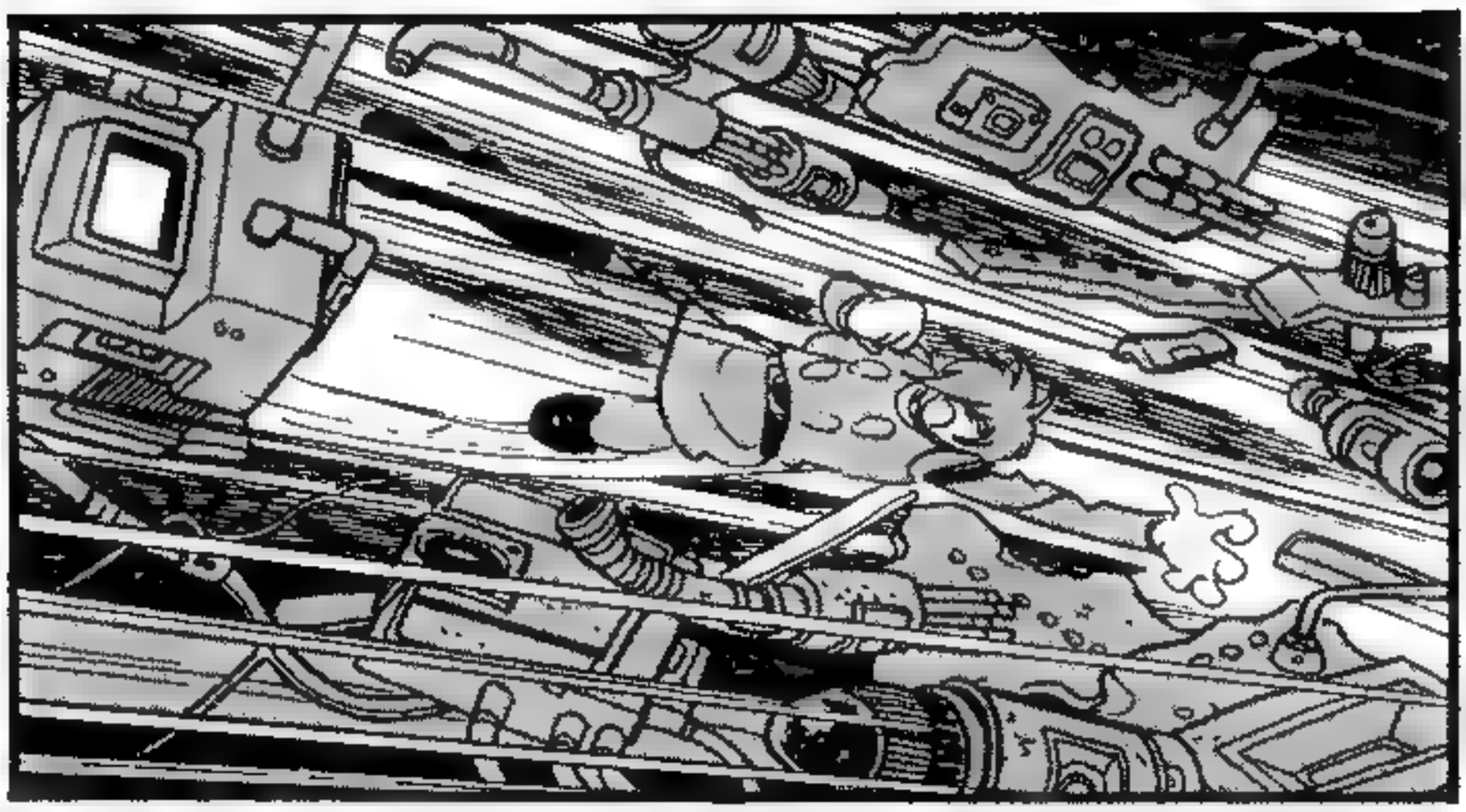
HAH! I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION...

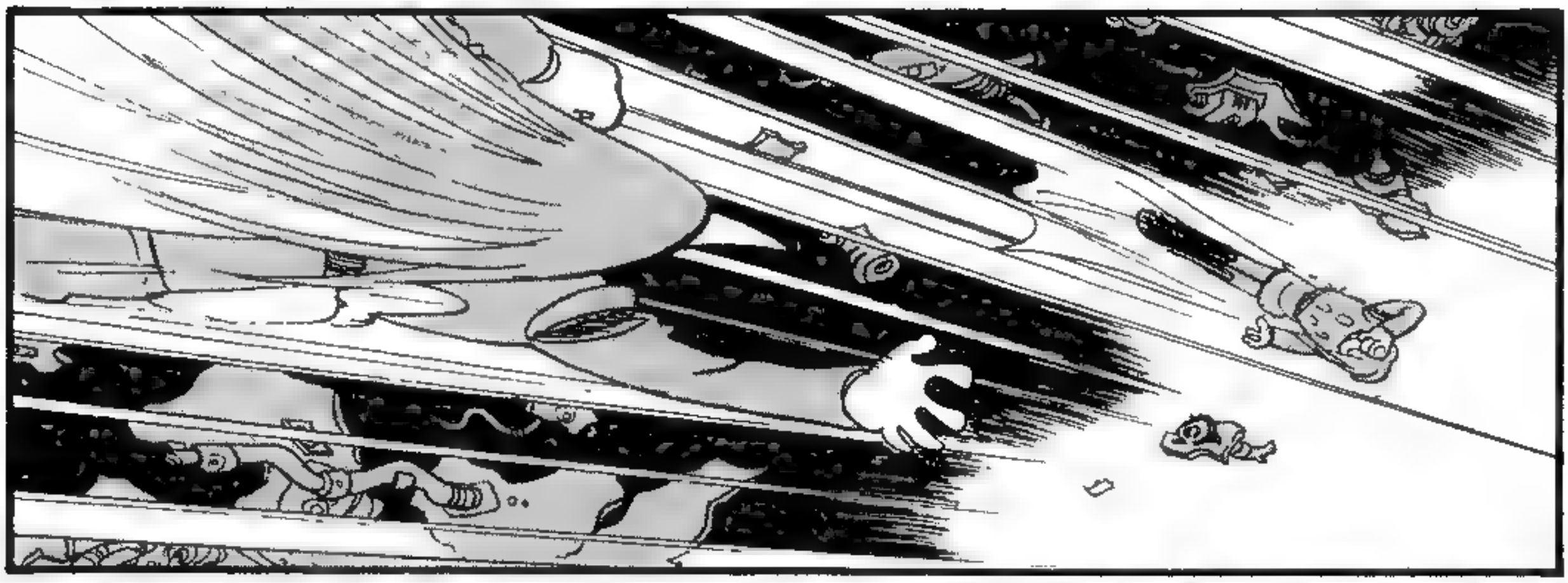
002!

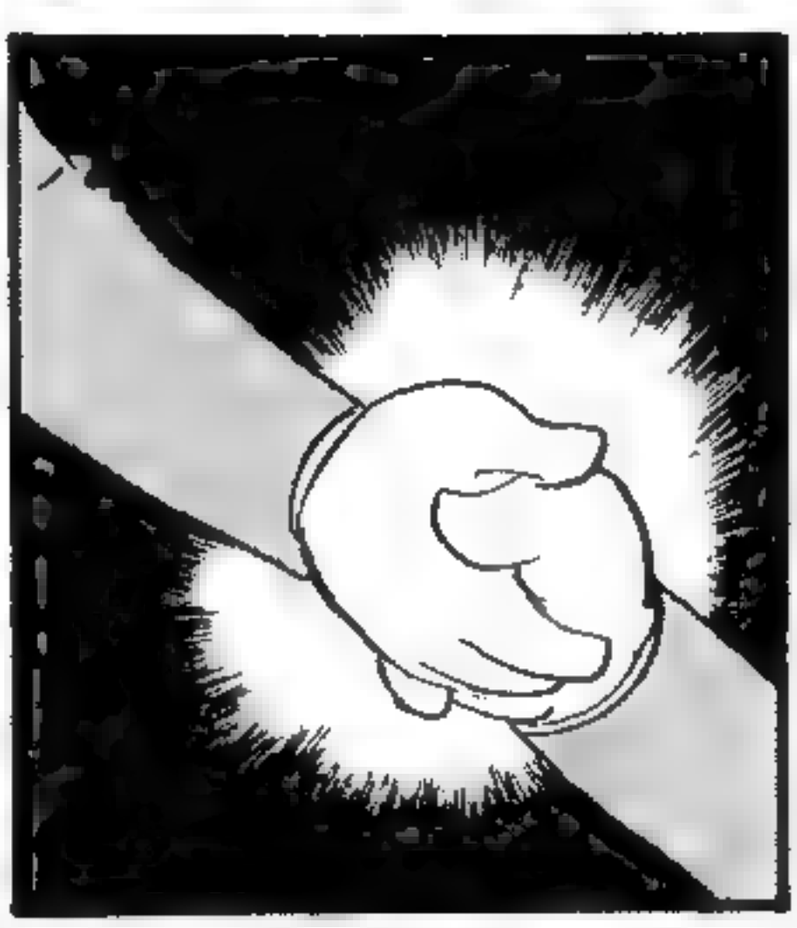
I-I CAN HEAR YOU!

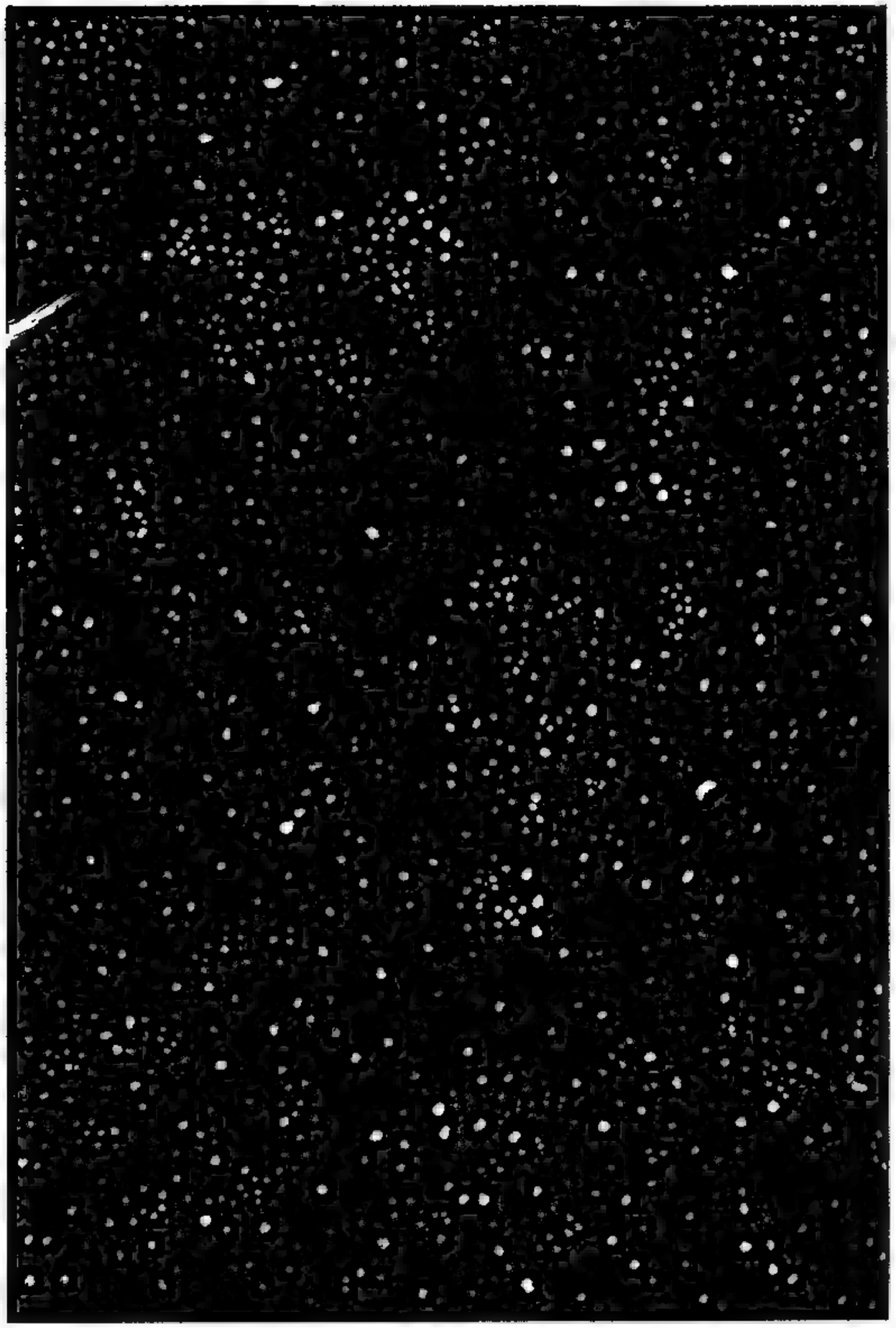
UN... NHHH!











WE DID IT! YOU DID IT!! ONLY THING IS... I'M AFRAID IT'S THE END OF US...

WHAT? WHY?

I'M SORRY, JOE! I TRIED. I REALLY DID. THEY WARNED ME NOT TO TRY AND SAVE YOU.

002!

THE GRAVITY IS GOING TO PULL US IN...

MY ROC-KETS ARE DEPLETED...

LONG AGO, WE SWORE TO EACH OTHER... WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER! TO THE BITTER END...

I... I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE YOU, JOE!

I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY FOR BOTH OF US...

...BUT YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH TO SAVE YOURSELF!

BLACK GHOST'S FINAL ACT OF DESTRUC-TION!

ISN'T IT BEAUTI-FUL!

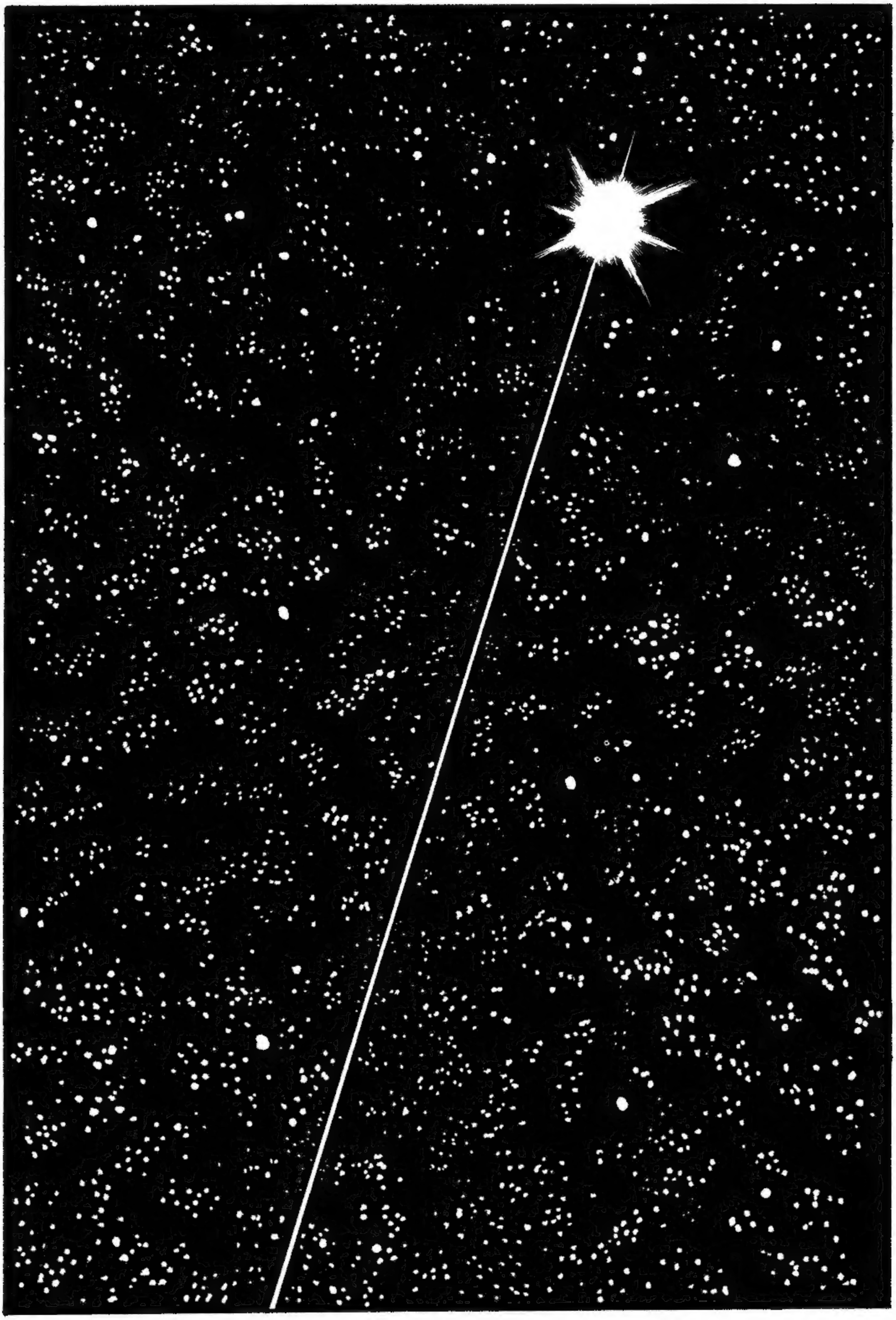
LOOK 009!...

.....

HURRY! WE'RE RE-ENTERING SOON! YOU'RE GONNA BURN UP!!

JET, STAY HERE AND WE BOTH DIE! BE REASONABLE. SAVE YOURSELF.

WOOO



YEAH.

...BEAU-TIFUL!

HEHE, I ASKED FOR A TOY RIFLE.

DID YOU MAKE A WISH, KAZU-CHAN?

YES, SISTER. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

A TOY RIFLE?

A FALL-ING STAR!

I WISHED FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

I WISHED FOR AN END TO ALL THE SENSELESS DEATH AND DESTRUCTION THAT PLAGUES THIS GLOBE.

...I WISHED FOR WORLD PEACE.

...WELL I...

ME?...